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YEMEN TIMES

Thursday, 19 May 2005 • Issue No. 843 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Counter-terrorism court discloses:

Assassination plots against government dignitaries

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, May 16- The counter-terrorism court disclosed in its Monday sitting a new shocking fact, when the prosecution forwarded a list of targeted senior government officials.

According to the prosecution, the list is topped by Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal and includes Abdullah Ali Elaiwa Minister of Defense, Rashad al-Alimi Minister of Interior, Ghalib al-Qamsh President of the Intelligence Organization and Abdulkarim al-Eriani Secretary General of the PGC.

The prosecution confirmed it took these names from a personal computer owned by the Anwar al-Jailani, an Iraqi with a Swiss citizenship who was



Iraqi Anwar al-Jailani (left) and Syrian Mohammed Khaih.

Photo by M. Al-Qadhi

tried at a previous session.

The prosecution said that the documents found recently contain plans and activities of "al-Tawhid Battalions Organization", believed to have stood behind operations in Saudi Arabia including offenses against al-Dhahran Military Base and U.S. restaurants and hospitals as well as doctors working in Saudi Arabia.

The prosecution disclosed the structure of al-Tawhid Battalions Organization's cells in Yemen, the way the organization operates and its hierarchies. The organization was found to be composed of 3-member cells. It also unveiled how the suspects stored their arms, contacted other cells and assigned the targeted strategic sights, in addition to mechanisms of contact with terrorist cells.

The top defendant denied claims of

the prosecution and did not know anything concerning the list of targeted government dignitaries.

Abdulaziz al-Samawi, defense-advocate of suspect Anwar al-Jailani commented the claims of the prosecution are fabricated by the security apparatuses, pointing out that the ages of the suspects do not appear in harmony, with claims and documents presented by the prosecution.

Lawyer al-Samawi demanded his client Anwar al-Jailani be referred to a doctor to diagnose his illness, but the prosecution refused to accept the request.

On its part, the court rejected the lawyer's request under the pretext that the suspect was previously referred to a legal physician, who confirmed that the suspect is in good health.

At the session, Hamoud al-Manifi,

lawyer of defendants No. 7 and 8 claimed that the penal court is not the party concerned to look into the case of suspect No. 8 Amran al-Faqih, accused of forging ID documents for his Egyptian wife. Meanwhile the prosecution said it is not the party concerned to file the case to the court, and only the Passports Prosecution has the right to do so, according to the law. Al-Manifi called for release of his client whose health deteriorates from day to day since his heart is placed to the right of his chest.

At the conclusion of the sitting, the court allowed top defendant Anwar al-Jailani to telephone his mother and ordered the prosecution to keep seized documents and other evidence until next Monday's session.

Additionally, the prosecution has shown other documents including checks, rent contracts of a house and cars that are still maintained for surveillance and photocopy purposes. It added that defendants used to exploit the checks and nobody knew who the beneficiary is.

It is worth mentioning the 8 suspects were referred to the court over charges of plotting terrorist operations and assaults on western interests in Yemen, as well as assassination plans against senior government officials.

The armed band included 13 suspects but the prosecution excluded five since there is not enough evidence to confirm their charges. The band is led by top defendant Anwar al-Jailani, an Iraqi with a Swiss citizenship, who is aided by two Syrians and five Yemenis, who were captured in Yemen.



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Authorities believed to stand behind PFUP's head-office stormed

By MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, May16- In a statement distributed Monday, the Popular Forces Unionist Party (PFUP) accused the authorities of standing behind the dominance and storming of its head-office.

An armed band including 15 elements stormed the head-office of the PFUP this week, and then stormed the office of al-Shura Newspaper affiliated to the PFUP.

The attackers took away all the computers and other devices and equipment from the newspaper's

office.

The statement issued by the PFUP's General Secretariat said: "Storming our head-office is thought of as an unprecedented incident that was officially planned and motivated.

The Joint Opposition Meeting Parties (JOMP) condemned the storming and occupation of PFUP's head-office.

In a statement, the JOMP said: "the Joint Opposition Meeting Parties condemn the formation of armed militias by any party considering such actions as flagrant violation of the constitution which prohibit the use of armed forces to serve interests of any party or any

person."

The JOMP warned of resorting to violence as a means for solving internal issues.

For its part, the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) issued a statement in which it condemned the storming of the PFUP's head-office and therefore it has shown readiness to stand next to the PFUP.

The statement said: "All these arbitrary procedures appear to pave the way to publicly implement the threat against the PFUP", the statement added. "All such assaults are part of the official policy adopted by the government which makes the economic

situation of the nation go from bad to worse, signifying the huge difference between the official talk and real-life situations deteriorating from day to day."

The statement concluded, "condemning all such works meant to be 'political terrorism', we invite all the political parties, local and international civil community organizations to express solidarity with the PFUP since neither the right nor freedom can be divided into smaller parts."

It is worth noting the storming of PFUP's head-office coincided with the address of the President of the Republic delivered last Saturday dur-

ing his meeting with a number of Yemeni religious scholars, MPs and al-Shura members.

In his address, the President said: "the armed wing of al-Haq and the Popular Forces Unionist parties were involved in supporting rebellion.

The President added, "we have enough evidence that confirms the plans and plots of some parties to coup against the republican regime"

In response to what the President said, the PFUP circulated a statement in which it claimed the President not to instigate against political parties, denying all that the President mentioned in his address.

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PFUP insists on release of kidnapped members

The Popular Forces Unionist Party (PFUP), held the security authorities accountable for the release of Nabil al-Wazeer, one of the relatives of Ibrahim al-Wazeer, president of the party who has just returned from abroad.

The PFUP said in a statement issued last Saturday that such developments

coincided with the address of President Saleh, that included instigations against the party.

The statement said such official practices against the PFUP targets the political and critical life in Yemen, calling on opposition parties and civil community organizations to stand against flagrant

violations by the authorities.

The PFUP officials strongly denounced the abduction of Eng. Nabil al-Wazeer amidst silence of the security authorities which appeared indifferent toward the issue, despite the fact that several reports were sent to the Ministry of Interior.

Officials at the party were quoted as saying: "Such official practices against our party target the political and multi-party life in Yemen and go against the democratic values adhered to by the regime."

The PFUP called on opposition parties and national forces to have a rigid stand against such practices and support the democratic move to build the future of Yemen and ensure its security and stability.

Qa'eda suspects jailed

SANA'A, May 14- The counter-terrorism court issued on Saturday a verdict jailing 2 al-Qa'eda suspects, after they were handed over to the government by Syria and Qatar.

Under the verdict, suspect al-Khadher Salim Abdullah al-Hatimi was sentenced to 3 years and four months in prison, while suspect Abdullah Ahmad al-Raimi received a

4-year imprisonment term for forging ID and travel documents.

Abdullah al-Raimi appealed the verdict was unjust while the other suspect accepted his fate.

It is worth mentioning the suspects were captured by the Qatari security authorities after their return from Afghanistan last year.

YALI celebrates graduation, inaugurates new classes

SANA'A, May 12- Yemen American Language Institute (YALI) celebrated a graduation ceremony to the dedication of opening of new classrooms. U.S. Ambassador to Yemen, Thomas Krajeski took part in the ceremony which was also attended by families of the graduates and scores of student spectators studying at YALI.

In his remarks at the dedication, Ambassador Krajeski underscored the importance of YALI "in promoting mutual understanding of each other's cultures and religions and each other's dreams and aspirations."

From the one room schoolhouse that YALI started 30 years ago in 1975, today's YALI has turned into a 44-classroom world-class institute,

with a 50-station computer lab, and a full-service Multi-Media Lab with computers, Internet, TV/VCR's and audiotape recorders, aiming to provide quality language education for the betterment of the students it serves. Classroom capacity ranges from 12 to 22 students.

Enrollment at YALI has continued to rise rather dramatically over the last four years. Form an average of about 850 students prior to 2001, enrollment at YALI reached more than 2,500 students this term. With the inauguration of the new classrooms, YALI will now be able to accommodate up to 3,000 students per term.

YALI's overall mission is to further promote understanding of the United States and its culture and

people and enhance English language proficiency among Yemenis.

YALI's student population is primarily Yemeni, mostly 18 years old and up, with a small number of students from 15-17. The average student is 20-30 years old. During summers, a separate "teen" program is implemented for ages 10-17.

Approximately 50-60% of the students are professionals who have full time jobs and attend YALI for 2 hours per day; another 30-40% are full time university students who attend YALI classes after university classes; and the remaining students are unemployed, including housewives and those either seeking work or undergoing the requisite year's wait between secondary school graduation and university matriculation.

An essay by the Ambassador of USA on the occasion of Unification Day

"Yemen has been an advocate of democratic reform in the region"

When in 1989 the ideological and political differences that divided much of the world began to crumble, and the demands for freedom were heard from Berlin to Johannesburg, the people of Yemen faced a choice. Some of the world's nations, fearing change, retreated behind walls of repression and suspicion. Others saw an opportunity to exploit narrow interests and old hatred for their own gain. Yemen from both South and North followed a different course, choosing unity and freedom.

The road to democracy and an open economy has not been easy. Yemen has faced severe challenges and difficult choices in both domestic and international affairs. Yet, it is clear that Yemenis are committed to progress and to developing the great potential of their country. Yemen has been a strong partner of the United States in fighting terrorism, recognizing the threat of extremism to all free societies. By working with regional partners and the international community to control the trade of dangerous weapons, Yemen can make fur-



THOMAS KRAJESKI,
US AMBASSADOR TO
YEMEN

ther contributions to its own and regional security.

Since unification, Yemen has been an advocate of democratic reform in the region, holding competitive elections and encouraging open debate in the press. This is not the time, however, for Yemen to be complacent, but rather to continue forward in promoting human rights and expanding liberty. As part of this process, Yemen has embraced the goals of the Millennium Challenge Account and pledged to initiate much-needed reforms to fight corruption and improve rule of law. When fairness and equality before the law become the standard, all Yemenis will know that they have the opportunity to succeed.

These reforms are crucial to Yemen's democratic progress and economic future. With rule of law, private investors, both foreign and domestic, will know that Yemen is a good place to do business. This investment will bring much-needed jobs and economic growth. This country has seen the benefits of

responsible economic decisions. At a critical time, Yemen controlled inflation and stabilized the currency. By continuing to make difficult economic reforms and pursuing free trade agreements with the WTO, the GCC, and the United States, Yemen will reap the benefits of the global economy.

The United States and other international donors stand together with Yemen in these efforts, helping to improve the lives of all Yemenis. Through USAID, the Middle East Partnership Initiative, and other U.S. government programs more children are going to school, health care has increased to those who most need it, the role of women in society is expanding, and there are new economic opportunities for farmers and small businesspeople.

I believe that these changes are slowly but surely transforming people's lives, helping them to become active, prosperous citizens in a dynamic society.

Yemen made the right choice in 1990, pursuing unity, liberty, and democracy. On this anniversary of unification, we congratulate the Yemeni people and support them in strengthening the values that bind together all free nations.

A third GSM-service provider to operate soon

SANA'A, May 15- Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology announced on Monday the third GSM-service provider due to operate soon in the country.

Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology Abdulmalik al-Muallimi confirmed that an announcement about the international tender concerning the installation of the third GSM-provider (GSM 900 system-operated) was made a few days ago.

Requirements of the tender do not

allow any chance to GSM mobile companies, the General Corporation for Telecommunication or their shareholders to apply for the tender.

It is worth noting the Cabinet approved the third GSM-service provider to be a stock company shared by the government and its institutions and authorities that have 25% and 20% financial reserves.

The remaining 55% portion is to be left to any investor having the desire to have a share at the project.

German Photo Exhibition to be staged

Prospectively, President of Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh, Prime Minister Abdullqader Bajammal, and the Ambassador of Germany to Sana'a, Mr. Frank Mann, will open the German photo exhibition: "Hermann Burchardt In Yemen- Photographical Journeys 1900-1909".

In the exhibition, amazing photos taken the German Traveler Hermann

Burchardt between the years 1900-1909 demonstrate many aspects of the Yemeni life at the beginning of the last century.

The venue will be taking place in the morning of the 21st of May 2005 at the Bafaqih Cultural Center in al-Mukalla.

The event coincides with the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the national day of Yemen. The exhibition can be visited from May 22 until June.

Spectacular celebration expected next week in Hadramout

Al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadramout, in 2005 is not as any body has ever seen it before. This year it has been chosen to host the celebration to mark the 15th anniversary of the unification. In comparison to Sana'a and Aden where many similar celebrations have taken place, the largest governorate hasn't been ready for this great event. As result, it has become a big beehive where more than 30 construction companies are now working at their utmost for the purpose of getting it ready by 22May. Yet, the short time has driven the workers to work round the clock and rotate the work so as no one gets tired.

Now as the time gets closer and close, it seems, the city is up to challenge. In the same way, many projects, which haven't been accomplished for years, are now off within months by hard working. Buildings that overlook the main streets are rebuilt, decorated and painted. Roads from the airport to the city centre were covered with grass. The governments has prepared spacious, comfortable, furnished house for the guests. On the other hand, many of local traditional folklore and dance are invited to participate in the celebration. These teams will give the guests a flavour of the Yemeni heritage and culture. Moreover, the unique Hadrami dance will be introduced to the high-profile audience. They will have an idea

about the richness and variety of the Arabian Felix.

Influx of official visits

Just after the announcement of this year's celebrations hoister. The oil-rich governorate has witnessed unusual flurry of the official visitors. President Saleh along with many other senior government officials paid regular and abrupt visits to Al-Mukalla. The successive visits rejuvenated the organizers to redouble their efforts. The president and the ministers stressed on one thing "we look forward to seeing the city ready on 22May"

A man of an iron will

Tarim, Sayun, Al-Gatin and other cities are also at sixes and sevens. The deputy governor for valley and desert affairs, Mr. Ahmed Junaid Al Junaid, monitors the construction works personally. At the same time, schools and sports clubs are organizing cultural contests and football tournaments. The activities are times to coincide with the greatest day in the Yemeni calendar.

Positive reaction

Most of the people in Hadramout are rejoicing and keeping their fingers crossed with the celebration. They are satisfied and happy about the giant projects



Al-Mukalla city

that are being completed such as Al-Mukalla ravine.

Anees Thawban, teacher of geography said "it has ever been f fascinating, but now within days, it will be more fascinating than ever before, now it looks like a bride"

Ali Al-Attas, 27, a computer programmer, spoke about the financial advantages of the upcoming days "The on-going work will be a real boon to the people of Hadramout from which all the people will benefit"

"Three months of demanding crash work offered many jobs for the people in a region where the unemployment rate has been high"

Let us hope that the unprecedented 22nd May celebrations in Al-Mukalla will win it a place of pride in the map of Yemen in the years to come.

Yemen takes part in FTIC

The Funding of Trade and Investment Conference (FTIC) in the Middle East and North Africa was wrapped up today with the participation of a number of Arab countries.

Yemen, represented by a team including a number of government officials and private sector and bank representatives, took part in the conference.

The conference discussed the possibility of providing more funds to boost trade and economic development in the Middle East countries and North Africa.

It also discussed the provision of funds for a number of investment projects in the sectors of agriculture, telecommunication, oil, water, gas, transportation and information technology.

Yemen presented a work paper in which discussed the investment opportunities available for investors according to the investment law.

As many as 400 political and economic figures from the Middle East, North Africa and the 8-country group took part in the conference.

The conference is being staged in the framework of the activities recommended by the summit of the 8-country group held last year in the United States of America.

Saudi exports popularized

HODEIDA, YT- In cooperation with the Watani Bank, the Hodeida Chamber of Trade and Industry held a symposium last week to popularize the program of Saudi Exports Development.

The symposium was aimed at acquainting people with the development of Saudi exports through offering supply incentives and increasing the competitive capacity of agricultural exports.

In addition, the course aimed to give Saudi exporters more confidence to enter new markets, enhance activities of the program and restrict risk loans.

To open the symposium, Mohammad Saleh Shamlan Governor of Hodeida stressed on the importance

of encouraging the investment law and opening new horizons before investors and exporters at the level of the Arab world.

Yousif al-Awhali, specialist at the Saudi Fund for Exports Development, reviewed goals of the symposium and the program, aimed to overcome difficulties and obstacles facing investors.

For his part, Ahmad Zajim, Deputy Chairman of Hodeida Chamber of Trade and Industry, pointed out the advantages and accesses available for the Yemeni importer and the role of the fund in enhancing trade ties between Yemeni and Saudi businesspersons, as well as the importance of having a joint Arab market.

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Basatine Center inaugurated

Aden, YT- on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Re-unification, the Basatine Center was inaugurated in the city of Aden.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Jamal Sudqi deputy manager, said the center is thought of as an initial step established by the Company of Maj Chinamex that is one of the branches belonging to Dragon Mall Company.

Basatine is one of the biggest commercial centers that merchandizes Chinese products.

The three-storey building, with an area of 1600 square meters, includes 20 commodity groups of products for over 3000 Chinese government com-

panies.

Jamal Sudqi pointed out the products contained in the center are of high quality and suitable prices for different social classes.

For his part, Mr. Wang Wei expressed his gratitude to those who arranged the event and happiness over the inauguration of the center, especially as it coincides with the 15th anniversary of the Re-unification.

He pointed out the center covers the best types of Chinese products, mainly



Jamal Sudqi

Mr. Wang Wei

commodities manufactured by China Mex Company, one of the biggest and most famous companies in China, and it has branches in the Middle East and Africa.

Sana'a Hosts International conference 3rd Asian conference on women and sports

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Under the title "Empowering Women to benefit from Sports and Physical Education", Yemen hosted for two days the 3rd Asian conference on women and sport (AWG Conference) that concluded on Thursday 12 May and took place at Sheraton Hotel. Around 23 Asian countries participated in the conference.

Mr. Abdualqader Bajammal, the prime minister, attended the conference opening ceremony in which he welcomed all the women delegations and he insisted on the importance of sport for women and consider it as one of their rights.

He called to remove all kinds of violence against women and uproot the complex ideas and cultural concepts that degrades the woman's status.

He also called for paying more attention to woman as they play a vital role in building the societies.

Mr. Abdualrahman AL-Akwa'a, the minister of Youth and Sport, also called in his speech for encouraging women to be involved in the sport activities and he said the ministry would provide women with special and private clubs to practice their sport activities. He also revealed that the ministry of youth and sport cooperating with the ministry of education would actively integrate the physical education in schools. Beside, the ministry of youth and sport will have contract with a number of female coaches to come to Yemen and train the local cadre.

AL-Akwa'a also stressed on the importance of the conference as to it is a chance to benefit from others' experience and come up with fruitful recommendations and actions.

The conference aimed mainly at raising awareness among the public on the importance of physical education to women via exploiting the services of various mass media facilities before and during the conference as well as encouraging girls to enroll in physical education faculties that are available in the various parts of Yemen which will later enable women to practice sport and physical activities.

It is worthy to mention that the 1st Asian conference took place in Osaka, Japan in June 2001 that aimed at assembling the global movement and sport in Asia through which fourteen Asian countries and regions participated and it was the first starting point towards the preparation for the "2006 World Conference on Women and Sport in Kumamoto, Japan."

The 2nd Asian Conference was held in Doha-Qatar in December 2003 in which 38 countries and regions participated. That conference adopted declarations called "Doha Conference Resolutions" which encouraged all the relevant parties and sport authorities to undertake effective support towards women sport, thus aiming at building a better society by playing an important role towards the success of future sports activities in Asia.

A number of working papers were submitted tackling different topics such as "empowering women to benefit from sport and physical education" "Achievements and needs of the Asian women and sport movement" "Promoting the participation of women at the 15th Doha Asian Games 2006" "The cultural, social

obstacles and the challenges towards changing the beliefs and attitudes" "Progress of women sport in Yemen between the reality and ambition" "The importance of leadership, training and promotion of women's competence programs in sports" and "Women with disability and sport"

Full report within next issue....

Irenes Myth makes her Aden debut

RIDHWAN AL - SAQQAF ADEN BUREAU CHIEF

Hapag Lloyd inaugurated its joint Far-East-Red Sea Service with Evergreen Marine Corporation (EMC) AT Aden on 12 May 2005 with its 30,941 dwt "Irenes Myth" berthing at Aden Container Terminal (ACT) on her maiden call.

She teams up with EMC's vessels to provide the weekly Intra-Asia service with a port rotation of Singapore - Tanjung Pelepas (Malaysia) - Aden - Jeddah - Aqaba and return. This 27 day round trip is an essential supply route for the increasing trade volume between this region and the Far East.

Hapag Lloyd is among the world's premier suppliers of global door-to-door container transport services. Irenes Myth will play a vital role in the provision of the group's worldwide comprehensive logistical solutions to the customers. She comes as part of a 150 year old tradition of linking continents, countries and cultures inspired by the credo of its former director general Albert Ballin...The World is our Oyster



Determined to meet the challenges of the times, Hapag Lloyd had on 11 April 2005 christened the largest container ship in the world - Colombo Express, a 335m long behemoth that can convey 8750 Teus. By 2008 seven more sister ships will join the Hapag Lloyd argosy.

Here at Aden Irenes Myth own contribution was commemorated with a maiden voyage plaque presented by ACT's General Manager Mohd Fadil Bin Ahmad to Capt Boris Chebatav in a dignified ceremony. This first call also marked what ACT

anticipated would be the beginning of an enduring firm relationship with Hapag Lloyd. Indeed ACT expressed its honour to be able to serve the formidable Hapag Lloyd- EMC partnership.

Irenes Myth's first call is also a clear indication that the efforts of the port operator, Overseas Port Management, to market ACT are paying dividends.

More shipping lines are in fact expressing increasing confidence in ACT by making it their port of call in this region.



First verdict on embezzlement issued

The Sana'a specialist court issued last Saturday a verdict concerning cases of piracy and the embezzlement of money from Canadian Nexen Petroleum Company with the use of electronic methods.

The second case is the first of its kind to be dealt with by the Yemeni judiciary. The court acquitted two of the suspects involved in the money embezzlement. The court also ended the cases of four other suspects according to the amnesty issued by President Saleh, on condition they

should pay back the embezzled money estimated at \$300,000. The money was deposited at one of the Malaysian banks.

The case emerged last year when Canadian Nexen Petroleum Company accused six people including four Yemeni brothers of stealing \$3million from the head-office of the company in the United States of America.

One of employees in the accounting department of the company in Yemen, was suspected of decoding the password of the company's head-office.

Italian trade team visits Yemen

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI YEMEN TIMES

SANA'A, YT- The Italian trade team finished its visit to Yemen that started on May 11, which included a number of Italian businessmen under Eng. Sergio Marini, Chairman of the Arab Italian Trade Chamber. The chamber was established in Italy in 1972 with the aim to reinforce trade ties between Italy and the Arab countries.

The team held a discussion last Wednesday at Sheraton Hotel in

Sana'a in the presence of deputy chairman of the general union for trade and industry chambers and the 25-member team representing 25 companies in different specializations, as well as a number of Yemeni traders and businessmen.

The meeting discussed different trade and investment opportunities exchanged between companies and Yemeni and Italian businessmen.

Sources mentioned that an industrial and commercial area was assigned for the Italian investments in Aden.

Artistic exhibition held at Taiz Big Secondary School

TAIZ, YT- Under the slogan "caring for the talented creative students", the Taiz Big Secondary School held on May 11-14 an artistic exhibition in its yard. The exhibition included paintings, decorations and scriptures, as well as other creative works.

Speeches were delivered at the exhibition that also witnessed the performance of artistic sections and singing of poems by school students on the occasion of the concluding ceremony of the school year 2004-2005.

The Taiz Big Secondary School is built with a capacity for 7000 students in the morning and afternoon shifts.

The exhibition, held with the participation of al-Tale'a Sporting Club, gave a chance for gifted and creative students to show their talents and skills benefiting from the school syllabus.

Concluding the ceremony, Sheikh Ahmad Ali Hafil, Chief of Cairo District and General Secretary of the Local Council and Abduljalil Jazim Taiz Big Secondary School Principal awarded certificates and prizes to the creative students in recognition of their efforts in different activities.

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- (3) Students who complete advanced courses and satisfy the criteria established by the National Institution for Academic Degrees can apply to the Institution for a bachelor's degree in engineering.

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In the old city of Sana'a**Historic houses stand precariously**By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Old City of Sana'a is among the world's oldest cities. It was built by Sam, Noah's son and has been since named after him (called sometimes the City of Sam). Of the characteristics of Sana'a is Bab al-Yemen, a southern gateway which leads into the city. Another landmark is al-Jama' al-Kabeer (Grand Mosque) which was built upon the order of the Prophet (PBUH). Recently, an international effort aimed at conserving this city has become apparent. Maintenance and rehabilitation is conducted in collaboration with the UNESCO.

However, a question that poses itself now is "Who should remove damage caused to houses by waste water coming from the Grand Mosque. Specialized committees say that the bases of houses have been affected making houses liable to fall on their inhabitants.

The Yemen Times representative went over to see depressed people in houses waiting for an inevitable collapse. Some of the houses have been abandoned while



Ibrahim al-Moayad



Yahya Mohammed Asdah,

the remainder of residents have their lives at stake specially during the monsoon.

Yahya Mohammed Asdah, an owner of a 5-story house said, "The Higher Commission for the Conservation of the Old City of Sana'a is responsible. Our historic homes date back to 600 years ago. They had withstood all that time span until three years ago. Waste water from the sanitary disposal system installed by a Korean company in mid 80s of the last

century leaked out and dampened the ground. Consequently, cracks appeared on the parts of the houses close to the ground. We are affected because our houses are in the vicinity of the Grand Mosque."

Because of the sodden ground, houses sank. According to Asdah, this is confirmed by engineers and the Higher Commission chaired by Ahmed al-Ansi, Presidency Office's General Manager.

The Higher Commission delays resolving the issue.

He added, "We called on all authorities. We were told that our houses would be bought from us. Several committees visited the houses to estimate their price but with no tangible result. They neither made maintenance to what they damaged nor compensated us. We live in jeopardy and we put the responsibility on the President and the government for 150 lives in the 12 five-story houses."

The State is responsible for our safety:

Ibrahim al-Moayad told us saying, "We live next to the most important site in the center of Sana'a, that is, the Grand Mosque. However, we are awaiting a certain death due to sewage water. Engineers have admitted to the damage caused to our houses but they did not provide solutions. We can't afford to rent new houses. Our 5-story house contains over 30 people. Rainwater penetrates into the house. Despite our repeated pleas, no one responded except for the Minister of Human Rights whose cooperation we appreciate.

"I am afraid and anxious about this situation. I feel that all families are imperiled. When the government damages citizens' houses, tell me who on earth is responsible for maintenance and saving people's lives. Over three years, we have only received lies, unfulfilled promises and procrastinated action."

Even the UNESCO doesn't care for us:

"I live with my five children," said Amin al-Daram. "my wife left us for her father's home. We live in terror. When it is raining, I go to my father-in-law's fearing that the house might fall on us. I am not able to rent another house. Therefore, I send an SOS message to the President. Even the UNESCO which numerated all houses did not visit us."

Opinion of official authorities:

We have received a number of memos from the Prime Minister directing the ministries of public works, electricity, and culture as well as the General Authority for Historic Cities Conservation to exam-



Who should remove damage caused to houses by waste water coming from the Grand Mosque

ine the complaints and take necessary action to cope with the situation.


The General Authority sent a memo to the Ministry of Finance asking for an allotment of YR 25,804,650 (half of the amount to be considered as part of the General Authority's budget) to hastily conserve the damaged houses which pose a threat to residents and pedestrians. The problems worsen day by day. Yet the General Authority told us that it had not received a reply from the Ministry of Finance.

The minute of the ninth meeting of the Higher Commission held at the Republic


Presidency Office on March 10, 2004 ordered the formation of a committee including members from the Ministry of Endowment, local council, General Authority and residents' representatives to assess the price of the houses and study the possibility of purchasing them to expand the area of the Grand Mosque and remove damages. Yet, the committee since then has not settled the subject. The government did not purchase them nor did it rehabilitate them. The residents did not get compensation for damages and they are helplessly waiting for the disaster to take place.




Cracks crawl on the walls of the old city, threatening an imminent collapse





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صنعاء

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Mr. Sergio Marini, President of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce to the Yemen Times:**"We have a soft corner for Yemen and we hope that our relations economically, socially and culturally continue to flourish"**INTERVIEWED BY: NADIA ALSAQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization based on total equality between both Arab and Italian sides. Created in 1972 by the joint initiative of the Arab Ambassadors in Italy, the Arab League, the General Union of the Arab Chambers of Commerce and the Italian business community, the Chamber aims at promoting the economic cooperation and commercial relations with the Arab Countries.

The Chamber is the only body officially acknowledged in Italy and participated by the Arab League and all its members: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. Large companies from both the public and the private sector, medium and small enterprises, banks, chambers of commerce, institutions and associations are members of the Chamber.

Mr. Sergio Marini, President of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce visited Yemen last week on an official visit aimed at strengthening the commercial relations between Italy and Yemen. Although Mr. Marini, born in Savona, Italy, 1939 had started his career in Architecture until the early seventies, he started a managerial trend in 1973 when he became the president and general manager at COPER s.r.l., main company of the Italian Cooperative Federation (Lega delle Cooperative), dealing with economic and social researches, planning, architectural projects. Since then he had gradually progressed in his career to become Vice-President for housing and international projects at CO.NA.CO COSTRUZIONI, the Italian national consortium of building cooperatives in 1977. In year 1981 Mr. Marini became president and general manager at INTERCOOP, a cooperative organization corporation dealing with import-export trading and industrial projects abroad. Mr. Sergio Marini became president of President of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce in 1983.



Mr. Sergio Marini

During his short visit to Yemen, which was organized in coordination with the Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce, he had met with many businessmen and officials and discussed issues concerning common interests and future potential opportunities. nadia alsaqaf of Chief Editor of the Yemen Times met with Mr. Marini on his last day in Yemen and talked about his visit.

Why this visit to Yemen?

The chamber works in partnership with all the 22 countries in the Arab league, and this of course includes Yemen. The Arab-Italian chamber of commerce conducts regular visits to all its members and it had intended to visit Yemen last year but because the Yemeni Federation of Chambers of Commerce was busy last December it took place only this time in May. The visit is not a consequence to the president's visit to Italy last November because we operate on economic issues and our relations are not dependent on the political events, although political relations help our work naturally.

What do you feel you have achieved in this visit, and was it satisfactory?

This is a friendly visit that aimed to strengthen the economic relations between Yemen and Italy and to explore potential investment opportunities in Yemen. There are many Italian small and medium scale companies registered within this chamber and we are hoping to define a framework for this cooperation. We have fulfilled our objectives relatively and

we hope that Yemeni businessmen would visit Italy next to build on this opportunity.

Which fields of investment are you interested the most? Would you be interested in the oil sector?

There is only one large oil company in Italy called ENI which is concerned with oil and oil productions and this could be interested in investing in Yemen not just for petroleum but also the various petroleum products. As for us, we represent small to medium scale industries from various fields and we are keen to promote investing in mechanics, textile, building materials among other industries. We are hoping to encourage Italian companies small and medium scale to invest in Yemen. To start with they will first explore the Yemeni market and decide if there are potential opportunities or not. And gradually with commitment and facilitations we hope that the economic relations between Yemen and Italy would progress. In the Arab region our experience with Tunisia is the most successful and we hope to replicate this in all the other countries especially in Yemen because we have a soft corner for this country.

Considering the current investment environment, what would be the magnitude of your investments in Yemen? And have you been given any guarantees and insurances or incentives for the stability of the businesses and investment in Yemen?

We hope that the conditions in Yemen will improve soon. Currently there are reforms going on and the economic growth for the last year is significant. Agreements with IMF and the WB are being respected and I am optimistic about the future and although difficulties are there but with good planning they could be overcome. Any country faces difficulties and all countries have their problems. Europe for example has its share of economic problems are well. But before any sold investment can take place there must be too agreements in application: one is the protection of the investors and this was signed last November during the Yemeni president's visit to Italy but is not yet into action and I suppose it will take two or three years before it is implemented

practically. And the other is an agreement to avoid double taxation so as to encourage the Italian businessmen to come to the Yemeni market without fearing of being taxed in Yemen as well as in Italy for the same goods. There had been no discussions in this issue as yet but we hope that this issue is attended to and taken care of if investment in Yemen is to be encouraged.

What would you recommend must be done to improve trade exchange between Yemen and Italy and the business in Yemen in general?

An important issue in this regards in addition to the two points I mentions before is that before anything as such takes place, the length and cumbersome of the procedures required must be decreased to allow an investment take place in reality. Lengthy and complex procedures would only delay and limit investments. In many other countries these procedures have been minimized so as to attract more investors to the country. Furthermore, the Yemeni market is not promoted economically in the west. Yemen should be promoted and advocated more as a potential market and potential place for investments especially tourist wise. There should be information centers about Yemen everywhere in the world that inform interested investors about the country and the possibilities of investing and the procedures needed. For example, our partnership with Tunisia is the one of the best in the region as we have had excellent relations with them and in the past there years the number Italian investments have increased tremendously there. Yemen could learn from this experience especially that we in Italy have a soft corner for Yemen and the Yemeni people.

Why do you think the Italian products could find their place in the Yemeni market, especially in the presence of competition of the less costly eastern products? And could Italy be a market for Yemeni goods?

I don't think that Yemen would pose as potential market for our fashion goods and cosmetics as such because these tend to be expensive and not of interest to the majority of the Yemeni people. The Italian products would

find a place in Yemen because of their high quality of make and their relatively cheaper prices than western products. We have a small market in Yemen and we hope to increase it, we are also looking forward to Yemen exporting their products to Italy. However, I think the best resource Yemen could tap on is tourism, especially that the Italian people have a long history with investing and managing tourism projects. Italy along has one quarter of the world's cultural heritage and our experience in promotion tourism could be very helpful to promoting Yemen. Yemen as a country has great potentials that must be utilized, you have the sea and the mountains and you have a lot of historical places that should be preserved. Also Italian tourists would find Yemen a beautiful place to visit. So Yemen should be promoted more than it is currently. You also have beautiful islands; and Socatra for example is a treasure on its own.

Italian and Yemeni relations date to more than 75 years now, how do you see Yemen benefiting from this relation further?

I think Yemen should learn from the Italian experience when we were able to rise from the ruined state post the Second World War to becoming the 7th most progressing country in the world today. We could achieve this because of investment in the small and medium scale industries, which lead to retrieving the economy from the remains and was rebuilt again. You could see that the Yemeni economy is a state of reform now and concentrating on these industries would help the economy to a great extent. Obviously the times have changed now and you could not measure what happened after the Second World War to Italy on Yemen today, but still I believe that this is the way out. Today because of globalization and the rapid movement of the world economics the challenges are more but they could be overcome through investing in the small and medium scale economies. Our relations should not only be limited to the economic sphere but should include social and cultural relations. Yemen should install a center for information in Italy to provide interested people with whatever information about Yemen they need. Moreover Yemeni

businessmen and women could benefit from the Arab-Italian Chamber services. The Chamber offers its members free and exclusive commercial promotion through economic missions in the Arab countries, through the Arab economic delegations to Italy, through Participation in exhibitions in the Arab countries and seminars.

The Chamber also provides operative assistance through providing information on country reports, laws and regulations of countries, financial means and credit lines and any data and statistical information on trade as well as on Italian exporters and on Arab importers.

In your short visit, how do you assess Yemeni women's presence in the economic arena?

I met many businessmen in Yemen, but hardly any businesswomen. I don't know if this is the case normally but I think that women are an integral part of any economy and you just cannot ignore the value that women can bring into the economy of a country. Yemen should encourage businesswomen further and incorporate them in events like this one. We don't have this problem in Italy and we think that businesswomen are an important part of our economy.

Is there anything you would like to comment?

I hope to visit Yemen again and to see more of the country than this time. I don't know when I will be coming again, nothing is there for this year and I would love to come again the next year perhaps. However, I do encourage Yemeni businessmen to visit Italy, they could refer to our website www.cameraitaloaraba.org and contact any business men and coordinate visits of mutual interests. I also hope that they would participate in the coming event we have in Bologna this November.

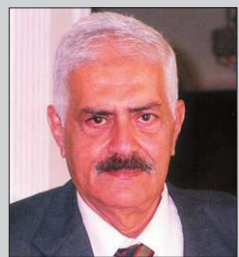
Italy and Yemen have had their relation back to more than 75 years until date. My wish is to create a partnership with Yemen under global framework because we have a special corner for Yemen and we feel related to the people in our hearts. We want Yemen to be our focal point in the Middle East and we want to encourage relations further.

Political change resolution is the key to the future

By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

The calls for reform repeatedly come from outside and from within. I believe that reform initiatives are not scary because reform is a continuous process on the cultural, economic and social levels. It is crucial to mobilize all resources for the sake of reform putting the supreme national interest on the top of the priority list. Reform can not be achieved over night and peoples are to enjoy or suffer consequences thereof.

Today, we are celebrating 14 years of the age of the Yemeni Reunification which was came into existence on May 22, 1990. Soon will we celebrate 10 years since it was reinforced after the cessation war of 1994. Therefore, reforms are imperative and require political volition. The President declared on many an occasion that he would wage a war against corruption and stabilize the state of law and discipline in the modern Yemen. Indubitably, the people of Yemen will go along with him in this direction.

Priorities:

By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

Fighting corruption, unemployment and bribery should have the priority. We have also to take care of security, tourism, investment and exports. These are the principles of the reform program which should begin with courageous decisions that make lay some personalities retired after honoring them and referring corruption files to court to hold accountable every minister, governor, deputy, or chairman surely implicated in corruption.

The President should unmask the identity of law violators and those who stand against development and modernization. No doubt, it is known to every one that all keys are in the President's hand and he is competent to perform his duties provided that he overcomes the conventional staff who do not translate his ambitions into actions.

There is still a chance for us to adopt policies based on objective foundations. To defend our rights and stop the general deterioration, they should deal with information and thoughts and define

our orientation.

Hot files:

The President has got before him hot files. He should begin with the file of the Free Zone and set a managing board for it. One month should be devoted to every hot file full of meetings that consequently give birth to workshops. The year 2005 must be the year of modern management and changes. With this, the qualified people, businessmen as well as provinces would vie for improving the whole society.

Yemen has got great investment potentials in many sectors. It would not, however, been able to exploit them if it lacks security and stability. There is of course public support for the President's reform initiatives. He has only to commence the battle against corruption fearlessly and achieve justice and shift from the people he confides in to the qualified ones.

The big challenge ahead of us is unemployment and its tremendous social, economic and political effects.

In order for efforts to complement each other in terms of alleviation of the problem of unemployment, it is necessary to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises so as to employ a larger portion of the workforce. Intensive

efforts are to be directed towards the change of social concepts that prefer public posts which have led to an overloaded governmental system.

Therefore, I call on the President to help businessmen to open markets abroad for local products and services and provide operation incentives.

Where should the President begin?

This is the most important question: "Where should the President begin his program and when?" First, I confirm that we must begin soon so as to silence the voices calling for external reform. The President should listen to the remarks of the public about their cares and concerns and the concerns of every sector separately. He should make surprise visits because they expose many of the shortcomings of ministries and governmental departments.

The President should adopt the participation slogan "Rule with us. Plan with us. Implement with us." With this, all will feel that development is the burden of the whole people.

The young qualified experienced people are the ones on whom nations rely. Corruption, bribery and nepotism – irrespective of any justifications for them – devastate the existence of societies.

Let us be united for the sake of development:

Let us be one hand with the President. On the 14th anniversary of the Yemeni Reunification, we should ask the President to fulfill his promise to launch the campaign against corruption and lay the foundations of the modern Yemen – the State of law and discipline.

The festivals of this year – coming in the 14 year of the Yemeni Reunification and 10 years after the stabilization of the Reunification in July 7- should include tangible measures to reinforce democracy and enhance the concept of peaceful transfer of power through presidential, parliamentary and local elections, through rigorous measures based on discipline and law unencumbered by political compliments and social status that do not serve stability, advancement or development.

Moreover, the President ought to close the file of journalist harassment and arrest. He should cancel the penalty of imprisonment to which journalists are subjected. He should listen to and make sure of the stuff published in the press. These are approached to democracy which consist in listening to the otherness whatever are the consequences

and however different opinions will be. The tax of democracy is the listening to the otherness.

In addition, export incentives and removal of all obstacles on the way of investors will help much in furthering the development process especially in the areas of gold mining, vegetables, fruits, and white gold (cotton). Yemen used to export the best types of cotton besides two other Arab countries, Egypt and Sudan. Yet this kind of cotton has disappeared for a long time. The Cotton Board should be resurrected to produce and market cotton. Besides, we have to create a ministry for tourism and let us begin with a Minister of the State for Tourism.

After all, Yemen has to do many things in terms of development especially encouragement of investments in this era that witnesses an unparalleled competition for creating suitable atmospheres and eliminate all economic hurdles to boost development in a multiplicity of areas.

The matter, undoubtedly, is in the hand of HE the President. With his wisdom, he can conjure up the political will for change which will create a thriving country and build the always-dreamt-of and most-spoken-about Yemen.

Palestinian leader says to ask for direct U.S. aid

TOKYO, May 17 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Tuesday he will ask for direct financial aid as well as political support from the United States when he meets President George W. Bush in Washington later this month.

"During my visit to the United States I will ask for economic assistance as well as political support," Abbas told reporters during a visit to Tokyo.

"In the past, America has not provided direct aid, so I intend to ask that aid be provided directly from the U.S. government to the Palestinian government," he added.

"Our government's economic and financial institutions now have the ability to deal with direct aid."

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi pledged \$100 million in aid to the Palestinians on Monday, adding to the more than \$800 million Japan has provided since 1993.

Abbas leaves Japan for China later in the day and is due to meet Bush on



Palestine's President Mahmoud Abbas (L) speaks as Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi listens to him during their joint news conference after their meeting at Koizumi's official residence in Tokyo May. 16. REUTERS

May 26 during a three-day U.S. visit.

A truce between Israel and the Palestinians has been shaky and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said he will not hold talks on

Palestinian statehood until Abbas cracks down on militants as required by a U.S.-led peace "road map".

Bush met Sharon last month at his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Apathy, instability worries mute Egypt protests

CAIRO, May 16 (Reuters) - Recent demonstrations for reform in Egypt have captured Arab and international attention partly because such overt but non-violent challenges to President Hosni Mubarak were so rare in his first 23 years in power.

Yet the protests have so far failed to draw more than a few hundred supporters at a time.

Reformers blame a "culture of fear", but political analysts say the inertia is because most Egyptians worry about instability, have no interest in politics and see little hope for change.

The demonstrations, organised mainly by the Muslim Brotherhood and the largely secular Kefaya (Enough) Movement, have helped give the impression in the United States and Europe of a political awakening in the Middle East.

But five months after Kefaya held its first rally against Mubarak in December, the movement does not appear to pose a serious challenge to the state, analysts say.

"Neither the Muslim Brotherhood or the Kefaya people have yet connected with the ordinary citizen, who is still attached to the state and order," Abdel Moneim Said, director of Cairo's Ahrim Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, told Reuters.

The vast majority of Egyptians see the state and its symbols, including former air force pilot Mubarak, as the guardians of national stability and security, Said added.

Representatives from both the Muslim Brotherhood and the Kefaya Movement say they represent the demands of the majority of Egyptians, who are too oppressed to speak for themselves.

"We are suffering from a culture of fear. You will see at our demonstrations thousands of security

people surrounding us.

This makes people too scared to take part," said George Ishak, Kefaya's coordinator.

It is difficult to gauge views widely in Egypt, where there are few independent opinion polls and national television and most major daily newspapers are government-controlled.

Many Egyptians questioned by Reuters in central Cairo expressed support for Mubarak, based on his track record of keeping the country of 76 million people relatively peaceful.

"I will always support President Mubarak. He is a military man who knows how to ensure peace ... Egypt is not like Palestine or Iraq, because of him," said Abdel Aziz, 58, a labourer working in the city centre.

Israeli military actions against Palestinians and the violence in Iraq regularly dominate the news in Egypt, where many people say the United States and Israel seek to destabilise Arab countries in order to weaken them.

"Those idiots in the protests"

Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif said in an interview on Sunday that Egyptians resented foreign advice because of the history of Western imperialism in the country.

"They don't appreciate very much foreign bodies telling them what to do," he told U.S. network NBC's "Meet the Press".

"The government uses the idea of American interference ... as an excuse to limit demonstrations and opposition activity," said Amina Abd el-Rahman, a journalist and activist.

Demonstrators from Kefaya and the Muslim Brotherhood bolster their nationalist credentials by regularly denouncing the United States and

Israel while calling for reform.

In a confrontation between supporters of Kefaya and members of Mubarak's ruling party last week, both sides shouted accusations that their opponents were U.S. agents.

After 50 years of domination by one party and no presidential elections, many Egyptians say they see no point in any sort of political participation, whether in voting for the 454-seat lower parliamentary chamber or street protests.

"Why should I be like these idiots in the protests? Protesting is not going to give me any money.

It's not going to give me a job," said Mohammed, 22, a student who skips lessons to sell bootleg films on computer disks in central Cairo.

Since the 1952 coup that overthrew the monarchy, Egypt's rulers have concentrated power in the hands of a few military figures and left most citizens with little say in the running of the nation, says analyst Hala Mustafa.

"The Egyptian social system has been depoliticised since the 1950s ... It was a governmental policy.

Today, the ruling political elites, the newspapers and the rest remain like those of a one-party state," Mustafa said.

Kefaya members have said it is possible that Egyptians could follow the example of pro-democracy protesters in Ukraine and Georgia and force their present leaders out of office.

However, most Egyptians in crowded central Cairo are so far happy merely to watch demonstrators, ringed off by riot police.

"When you are in a demonstration, you do often get the impression that the other people are looking at you as if you are mad or odd," said journalist and activist Abd el-Rahman.

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- Fluent English. Presentation skill is preferred.
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Position ID: ST03344 Technical Service Engineer (4 Vacancies)

Location: Yemen branch

Main responsibilities:

- Responsible for Network Products after-sales promotion activities planning and implementation.
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Requirements:

- Over 3 years working experience in telecommunications company is preferred. With solid knowledge of telecommunication network products and rich experience Technical Service.
- Goal-oriented with good interpersonal and communication skills, good at information gathering and a very good team player.
- Bachelors Degree or above in Telecommunications, Computer Science, Electronics or related technical fields.
- Willing to take long-term business trips
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Position ID: ST03245 Engineering Project Manager (1 Vacancy)

Location: Yemen branch

Main responsibilities:

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- Ensure project deliverables quality;
- Ensure project payments and invoicing, project receivables and billings;
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- Work collaboratively with Account Manager and Marketing Management to develop strategies and specific approaches to identify sales opportunities;
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- Good Knowledge of civil work;
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills;
- Proficiency in English;

Qualified candidate should e-mail their CV to Yemen_office@126.com no later than 16th June 2005. Please Specify the position you applied for. Only Those candidates meeting requirements shall apply, and acknowledge will be sent to those short listed candidates meeting requirements.

For Further Information, please call 73248066

Insurgents kill four Iraqi soldiers at power plant

BAGHDAD, May 17 (Reuters) - Insurgents killed four Iraqi soldiers in clashes outside a power plant in a southern Iraqi town on Tuesday, army sources said.

The attack in Mussayib was part of an escalated campaign of suicide bombings and shootings by guerrillas that has pressured the new government to deliver on promises of improved security.

More than 400 people have been killed in the violence since the cabinet was announced in late April following elections three months previously.



Onlookers view the remains of a vehicle which was destroyed by a twin car bombing at a Baghdad market May 17. One person was killed and over 25 injured when a pair of car bombs exploded in southern Baghdad on Monday evening, police said. REUTERS

Afghans suspect gang kidnapped Italian aid worker

KABUL, May 17 (Reuters) - Afghan authorities suspect criminals, not militants, kidnapped an Italian woman aid worker, snatched from her car on a street in the centre of the capital, Kabul, a government official said on Tuesday.

Clementina Cantoni, 32, from Lombardy, who works for the CARE International aid agency, was kidnapped at about 8:30 p.m. (1600 GMT) on Monday after the vehicle in which she was travelling in Kabul was intercepted and blocked by another car.

Four gunmen grabbed her from her car, bundled her into a white Toyota car and drove away, security officials said.

The kidnapping has raised fears among Kabul's 2,000-strong foreign community that anti-government insurgents might begin Iraq-style kidnappings but investigators suspected criminals not Taliban or al Qaeda militants were responsible.

"There is a perception that a criminal group could be behind this although nobody has claimed responsibility," said President Hamid Karzai's spokesman, Jawed Ludin.

A spokesman for Taliban insurgents denied involvement.

"Our mujahideen (holy warriors) have not kidnapped the woman. We don't indulge in such things," Abdul Latif Hakimi said by telephone. "We don't know who's done it."

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) new agency, citing unidentified sources, said the woman had been kidnapped by robbers seeking the release of three detained comrades. They had set a deadline of 1 p.m. (0830 GMT), AIP said.

Security officials said they had no knowledge of a deadline.

Three U.N. workers were kidnapped in Kabul in October and held for 27 days before being released unharmed.

The government said they were grabbed by a gang of criminals who could have been hired by a Taliban splinter faction that threatened to kill them unless Taliban prisoners were



Afghan widows who receive monthly ration from CARE International aid agency, hold a banner in during a demonstration against the kidnapping of Clementina Cantoni in Kabul May 17. Afghan authorities launched an investigation on Tuesday into the kidnapping of an Italian aid worker seized from a car by gunmen on a street in the capital Kabul, an Italian embassy official said.

freed.

THREAT

Ludin said the same gang might be involved in Cantoni's kidnapping, and they might be seeking the release of their arrested leader.

"Members of the group had recently threatened to kidnap foreigners if the government did not release some members of the group including its head, Telagai," he said.

The suspected head of the gang, known as Telagai, and five other gang members had recently been detained, Ludin said.

AIP said the robbers holding the woman were from a gang known as Tela Mohammad. They had given NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) peacekeepers the deadline, AIP

said.

An ISAF spokeswoman denied any knowledge of a claim of responsibility or a deadline. An Afghan official said the real name of the man known as Telagai was Tela Mohammad.

CARE International said Cantoni had worked in Afghanistan for more than three years, most recently helping 10,000 widows eke out a living for themselves and their children.

ISAF troops, deployed to guard Kabul, set up checkpoints soon after the kidnapping to help police catch the gang.

The district in Kabul where Cantoni was kidnapped has several guest houses and restaurants popular with foreigners. A bomb attack in an Internet cafe in the area this month killed three people,

including a U.N. worker from Myanmar.

Cantoni's family wished for a speedy and happy ending, Italy's ANSA news agency said.

"The only thing we want to say is that we hope this finishes quickly and happily," ANSA quoted a family friend as saying.

While Kabul is much safer than Baghdad, aid agencies have issued warnings to staff in recent weeks following two unsuccessful attempts to kidnap foreigners. Embassies also urge vigilance.

In April, an American man was forced into the trunk of a car but managed to jump out. In another incident, a car carrying foreigners was intercepted by gunmen but their driver reversed away.

EU talks up Europe, French "No" to EU charter gains

PARIS, May 17 (Reuters) - The 25 members of the European Union's executive commission gave a tacit display of support for French leaders campaigning for the EU constitution on Tuesday as news polls showed a majority of voters oppose the charter.

All 25 commissioners set out their vision of Europe's future in Les Echos business daily but steered clear of openly urging France to adopt the treaty, intended to simplify decision-making in the EU following its expansion last year.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer also lent a helping hand to the constitution's backers, telling La Croix newspaper that leftwing sceptics should back the EU charter because it would give them a chance to advance their social concerns.

"The left should defend the prospect of a social Europe, and that should lead it to act in favour of Europe, not against Europe," Fischer told La Croix.

A clear majority of leftwing voters are hostile to the charter, which must be ratified by all member states to come into force. Rejection could trigger a political crisis in the EU and have a short-term impact on financial markets, analysts say.

Delocalisation — the loss of jobs to low-wage economies, highlighted by a surge in Chinese textile imports this year — has increased hostility towards Europe.

In his Les Echos contribution, Barroso sought to tackle concerns that Europe and its new constitution were more concerned with markets than the lives of ordinary people.

The commission wanted "firstly, to make it that Europeans consider the Union as a response to economic

globalisation and not as a submission to it", said Barroso.

"No" gets its nose ahead

A batch of new polls show President Jacques Chirac still has a fight on his hands to persuade voters to back the charter. A TNS-Sofres/Unilog survey for Le Monde newspaper, RTL radio and LCI television showed 53 percent of voters oppose the treaty.

Chirac has staked much personal prestige on the referendum's result but deep-seated public anger over unemployment, at a five-year high of 10.2 percent, and his conservative government's economic reforms have fuelled the "No" campaign.

A poll on Monday suggested leading Socialist "Yes" campaigner Jacques Delors, a former EU Commission president, had inadvertently boosted the "No" vote by suggesting the EU would have to come up with a "Plan B" if France rejected the treaty.

But pro-charter campaigner Francois Hollande, whose Socialist Party has split badly over the referendum, brushed off the polls, saying 30 percent of voters were still undecided. But he also said government policies were hurting the campaign.

"I think the French people are exasperated and lucid at the same time. They are exasperated by the government's policies over the past three years ... But are we going to resolve the issue of the government on May 29? No!"

Voters should wait for presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007 to punish the country's leaders, the Socialist Party boss said.



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Words of Wisdom



One of the key differences between a dictatorship and a democratic system is the role of the media in general, and that of the official media, in particular. If those individuals in charge of the media feel they are more responsible towards the public than towards the politicians, and perform their job on that basis, then that is a sign of a democratic structure.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

Investment in MENA

When discussing the problems encountered in any program, project or even country no doubt it is the financial issue that ranks first place. This fact becomes clearer and more alarming in underdeveloped countries where a large percentage of the population lives below the poverty line, such as in Yemen. In turn, the Yemeni government has taken some measures to improve the economic status of the country through various economic reform strategies and programs, some of which have proved to be a total disaster while others flicker a tinge of hope that things could become better.

Hence, economy is the backbone of any country, and simultaneously, investment is the foundation of any economy. In other words, the way to achieving a better and sustainable economy is very much dependent on the investment environment of that country. Investment environment includes issues of procedures and paper work, facilities and incentives, promotion and information as well as bilateral relations.

If a country focuses on these four aspects in a positive way encouraging foreign and local investments especially with regards to small and medium scale industries, then this is a sure way of rapid economic growth. Investment laws must be designed to attend to issues such as eliminating double taxation, promoting exemptions and provision of quality services. Formal procedures and paper work required before issuing licenses and permits should be reduced to the minimum along with the importance of keeping the procedures as simple as possible.

In a report by the World Bank - MENA region earlier this year, it was mentioned that among nations enacting reforms in the Middle East, Jordan improved the process for starting a new business most, by cutting the number of procedures from 14 to 11 and the number of days from 98 to 36.

Still, Jordan is one of six Middle Eastern countries, together with Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Syria, in the list of 10 countries with the highest minimum capital requirement for starting a business. Algeria, Morocco, and Yemen also reduced the number of days necessary to start a business. Saudi Arabia reformed its public credit registry, nearly doubling the number of borrowers with information available at the registry.

Jordan reduced the time it takes to register a new business by nearly nine weeks and is one of the few nations that gives regulators an incentive to maximize the value recovered for creditors when a business must close. Yet the government still requires a new business to have minimum capital equivalent to 11 times the nation's average per capita income. In Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the minimum capital requirement is 15 times average income; in Syria, the requirement is 50 times average income. By comparison, more than 40 nations worldwide have no minimum capital requirement for a startup business.

Yemen among other developing nations is in dire need to encourage investment and yet it is not carrying out any significant improvements in these regards. Michael Klein, World Bank/IFC Vice President for Private Sector Development and IFC Chief Economist in an old report said something that although true, it is incredibly alarming: "Poor countries that desperately need new enterprises and jobs risk falling even further behind rich ones who are simplifying regulation and making their investment climate more business friendly." I hope this message reaches those people sitting at decision making positions so as to feel the responsibility and act on it.

Editor

United Yemen: A recent history (3)

Both sides agreed on the date of 30th November 1990, for declaring the reunifying of Yemen, but President Saleh and Secretary General al-Bydh, felt there are internal and external forces trying to derail their project, so they brought it forward and declared Yemen united on 22nd May 1990.

The visit to Aden by Prince Saud al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia, was a last minute desperate and unfortunate effort to stop the Southerners hastening towards Unity. The Saudi offer was very lucrative financially and diplomatically and included membership in the Saudi dominated GCC. The Leadership in Aden responded firmly: Unity is a local and internal affair.

Saleh and al-Bydh went through the Gold Mohr Tunnel (between Maalla and Tawahi in Aden) for a walk. It took them 3 minutes and al-Bydh was happy to get away from the party checks. Saleh was stunned by al-Bydh's resolution that it is the time for full and direct merger.

Although arrangement were reached upon how to divide authority and posts between the two sides, many high officials were busy trying to secure or improve their personal positions. A voice was heard aloud in Aden demanding that the Southerners share of authority in the future



BY IBRAHIM HASAN MOHAMMED

Aden, who left Yemen.

About 20th May 1990, Aden announced the merger of the Northerner Popular Unity Party with the Socialist Party. The North Yemeni Leadership was better aware of future developments and absorbed in Government representatives of the Zumra (Socialist Party), while the comrades in Aden found themselves compelled to include party officials of Northern origin (Mohsen, Abdul Wasa'a Sallam .etc).

The leaderships of the new United Yemen was able to pass the regional shares huddled in dividing cabinet portfolios. The problem in the South was much more complicated; there were hundreds of the National Democratic Front (of North Yemen) and officials of organizations (Such as the Peasant's and Youth Unions) which had no counterpart in the Northern system to merge with. It was agreed, however, that they must be absorbed anyway,

and they were dispersed in several organs such as the security, local government, foreign affairs .etc.

The Northerners complained that their Southern brethren included in the foreign ministry lists many unqualified names: turning drivers into minister plenipotentiaries and cooks into first secretaries.

The time bomb remained in the Southern Side because of the way their share of power was regionally distributed. The cadres of the Popular Unity Party were kept out. In pre-unity times they had suffered oppression and torture in the North and thought that the arrival of their comrades to Sana'a brings an end to their years of emaciation. Nobody gave them a hint so some of them changed sides. The PGC was aware of the problem and was quick to absorb some of them in party building, and others were just absorbed as informers and the like.

In Southern popular circles, the suffering was hard and the people said: "We have been sold". Sana'a generously heaped upon the leadership its bonuses. For the Southerner officials and employees, they began getting of allowances: Housing, graduation, travel, security, appearance .etc. Hundreds of luxury vehicles were granted for Southern high officials. It was somewhat similar to what happened in Moscow. A lot of honey was given, but it contained a poison that didn't kill immediately. They started to pay a high price only a year later.

Some believe beating women breeds respect

There are many advanced social systems set by Islam for dealing with almost all phenomena realized in the Muslim society. Islam is a religion of rules that deals with all aspects of life as well as reforms of the human soul despite emergence of variables.

There are several phenomena perceived in families such as the beating of wives, which is practiced by husbands due to the lack of awareness and faith in Allah. Some husbands tend to put solutions for making the marital life a success even by the use of illegal methods.

One can find that some people tend to beat their wives in order to get rid of any psychological pressure and sufferings. Beating wives causes disgust to some individuals while many others see it as a good solution for some matrimonial problems.

Allah (Subhanah Wa Ta'ala) distinguished human beings from animals by bestowing on them the ability to speak and negotiate to find what is right and what is wrong. If the husband fails to use the style of dialogue and negotiation with his marriage partner and resort to beating, he is not a legible partner.

The physical beating of wives is believed to be the result of a state of anger in the man, a kind of boast before one's relatives or society or failure to deal with

any problem. Some husbands believe that beating their wives breeds obedience and respect and help them impose their dominance over them.

When asking one, "why do you beat your wife, sister or daughter?" he tends to give some justifications that can only convince himself as saying: "any woman should be treated like this, otherwise, she will be a strong opponent. She has to have patience and tolerate me."

This problematic issue is greatly manifested in Yemen as men are seen not to show any respect to women, a mother, wife, sister or daughter. Many people of other nationalities revealed they endured bad economic situations, psychological and mental sufferings, but they did not extend their hands and hit women as Yemenis do, particularly as they live in the country of belief and wisdom whose government strongly adheres to the teachings of Islam.

The Yemeni woman is not treated with respect by her man! Why? Because it is she who should have patience and stand by her husband and therefore is treated with disrespect. From my fair point of view, divorce is the best solution for a large number of cases.

Here given a story that arouses surprise and curiosity. It is the story of a woman who works in a Women Wears Shop in

one of the Arab countries. She is married and a mother of three children and says that her husband is a drunkard and accuses her of infidelity. "At the end of every month, he comes to beat me at the shop, take all the money I have gained and feels disgusted of my affiliation to Islam," cried the woman. She admired her affiliation to Islam as it is a religion that legislates divorce, which is not exercised by people affiliating Christianity.

She expressed deepest thanks and gratitude to Allah after she was divorced and got rid of such an immoral Christian. She was reported as saying: "All I read and heard of religions compelled me to acknowledge that only Islam is the religion that stresses more on the protection and dignity of the woman.

Views look differently about such a phenomenon, as there are supporters, there are many objectors to the beating of women. The teachings of Islam care for dealing elegantly and fairly with women and avoids physical torture since it is against her dignity. There are some steps to be followed by any man before he resorts to beating his wife as an ultimate solution, starting with cultivated words, advice, and then warning of the anger and torture of the Creator. If these possibilities do not work, the husband can break relations and set apart with her but he should never resort to beating.

We should not forget the health education expected to be adopted by the husband to enable his wife to understand his mood well and to instruct her of what is preferable and what is hateful.



BY HAMOOD AL-HASHIMI

woman should be treated like this, otherwise, she will be a strong opponent. She has to have patience and tolerate me."

Don Quixote, dissident

BY NORMAN MANEA

It is now four centuries since the birth of a masterpiece whose author and hero both seem younger than we do. The simplest explanation for this may be found in Flaubert's words about *Don Quixote*: "I found my origins in this book, which I knew by heart before I learned how to read." Indeed, at the core of *Don Quixote* is something essential that we knew even before we read it but which became part of our nature only after we completed its mesmerizing journey. This is the unmistakable stamp of greatness in a writer.

Hunting after his own ghost - an obvious sign of inner unhappiness - Hidalgo searched for a place where dreams, reality, sainthood, love, and justice coexist. In their burlesque approach to humanity, Don Quixote and Sancho Panza are the most enduring and endearing clownish couple in world literature.

It is no surprise, then, that for the last 400 years Don Quixote and Panza have bred many relatives and successors, including countless buffoonish boss-and-servant couples. Even the history of the circus is focused on such a pairing: the vain, dignified White Clown and Augustus the Fool, the humble loser who is kicked in the pants by his stiff, pompous partner.

For an East European like myself, it is not easy to ignore the history of the circus - or history itself. The solemn Communist Manifesto announced the specter of the Great Utopia haunting Europe, but failed to warn us of the bloody tyranny. The glib Sancho Panza was meant to adopt the revolution's deceptive dogma as entitlement to wage a brutal war against all. The dream of improving the world disguised a farce that affected not only a single life, as in Cervantes' story, and affected not only the misleading army of buffoons believed to be missionaries. This dream destroyed generations of victims.

In the world circus, the poet looks like a Knight of the Sorrowful Countenance, and Augustus the Fool appears ill-equipped for everyday life. Like Don Quixote - and Cervantes himself - the artist dreams of other rules and rewards than his fellow men, who are content to digest their everyday lives.

In the socio-political arena, Augustus the Fool faces the Clown of Power. Cervantes' political parody can be read in many twentieth-century East European stories. Its incomparable vitality and language, for example, find their way into the work of the Soviet writer Andrei Platonov. A communist who considered himself an honest proletarian writer, but called by Stalin, the Red Clown of Power, "svoloc" (scoundrel) and "balagancik"

(buffoon), Platonov lived a lifelong ordeal.

His carnivalesque odyssey of totalitarianism displays a world of misery, boredom, and obedience in its dark journey to an unreachable paradise. The communist Knight, the new "caballero de la triste figura," a kind of enlightened idiot, blinded by his loyalty to the unreal and by his harsh political correctness, considers Lenin a new Moses. He rides the Rosinante of the Proletarian Force, falls in love with the dead Rosa Luxemburg in her role as Comrade Dulcinea and has intercourse with a locomotive.

In today's free-market carnival, nothing seems visible unless it is scandalous and nothing is scandalous enough to be memorable. So we pay homage to Cervantes at a time when we routinely co-habit with a very different outrageousness: religious fanaticism and terrorism, political manipulation, the cacophony of perverted simplification, the belligerent marriage between a new messianism and an aggrandizing quixotic blindness. So long as we celebrate Cervantes, however, perhaps all is not lost.

Norman Manea is a Romanian novelist. His memoir, *The Return of the Hooligan, is being published across Europe.*

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COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

From Guantanamo bay, the message is clear

The crescent versus the cross, again?

It seems that the Bush Administration has decided to do away with all morals, human rights, tolerance and all the other niceties developed by prophets, philosophers, some good politicians and the sacrifices of so many human lives for the sake of freedom and justice over the ages. Not one month will pass without some ugly scene coming out of the quagmire of repulsive deeds that the machine that the White House created on a misleading anti-terrorism platform that is as convincing nowadays as saying that the American South fought the North to free the slaves. Even before the Abu Ghreih scandals have yet to see the hopes of justice one expected in the great tradition of American fair adjudication of moral issues, the news from Guantanamo says, "You ain't seen nothing yet!" What mentality would drive any human being to take the words of the Al-Mighty, addressed to all humanity and flush them down the toilet? How much insolence must one be prepared to see from an Administration that claims it is getting advice from its "father up in the heavens"?

Ironically, the YT's literary critic (See Literary Corner) is doing a review of a book that looks at the Holy Scriptures in all their manifestations, Jewish, Christian and Moslem (yes, the Qur'an is also scriptures) and the author of the book in question I must say took great pains to emphasize to his fellow Christians (I believe he is Catholic), "hay you fellow worshippers of the cross, there is a lot of sense in the Qur'an and if the Qur'an recognizes the Scriptures of Moses and Jesus, then we should at least return the gesture in kind, if not better!" Those are not exactly his words, but the implications point in this direction without fail.

Better yet, Moslems are ready to accept the ingrained hatreds of the so called neo-conservative evangelists against Moslems (as much lip service as we hear from Washington to the contrary, we honestly have no second doubts it is there). After all, any clique that has decided to ally itself with one of the most chauvinistic ideologies of modern time and the likes of Ariel Sharon and BB Netanyahu certainly thrives on hate and narrow interests and certainly are as distant from religion as the perpetrators of Deir Yassin and Sabra and Shatilla. But if they do not revere the Qur'an as we revere their scriptures (even in their corrupted renditions), then at least they should leave it alone and not add insult to injury. Surely, the Qur'an has its rightful place in the hearts of Moslem, as it should for all God fearing individuals, as it is the only Scriptures that actually endorse the scriptures that Mr. George W. Bush says he is upholding and living by! He probably never read the Qur'an, or probably has no idea what the word Qur'an means. Mr. Bush simply could not have read the Qur'an, because the morals and teachings of the Qur'an are far more than Mr. Bush and his lynch men in Guantanamo Bay could understand or wish to live by.

So, Mr. Bush thinks that a fuzzy apology by Newsweek (but not a retraction, mind you) dissolves him from responsibility in all the evil that has come out of the White House, not just against Moslems, but even against his own people (except the rich ones of course). It is certainly enough to listen to the reports of the tens of deaths that are coming out of Iraq to presume that Mr. Bush has no desire to go to paradise or seek the favor of the Lord. But to allow such horrible desecration of the words of the Al-Mighty surely indicates that Mr. Bush has no desire whatsoever to reach the Al-Mighty as long as his friends in the military-industrial complex are happy. No, for Mr. Bush and his neo-conservative demagogues, there is no place for God in their hearts. Throughout history, men have used God to serve their own selfish interests or those that guarantee their hold on power and were as distant from the Al-Mighty as anyone can be. "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

On Democracy in Yemen

The closing chapter of the marginal democracy that we thought we had in Yemen has just been written by the regime recently with its incomprehensible attacks against some of the political parties that are exercising only the minimum rights accorded to them by the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen. Frankly speaking, the tie-up between the Houthi rebellion and the Party of Truth and the Federation of Popular Forces is not convincing or even clear. There were a lot of people, who were opposed to the latest and previous outbreak of fighting against the poor and deprived people of Sa'ada. These two parties were not the only opponents. Many of us, who were not associated with any political parties or any organized political association tried very hard to seek justifications for the senseless killings in Sa'ada. In fact most of those who expressed their hopes that the end of the fighting would serve the interests of Yemen better than any fighting that probably was intended to serve interests that have nothing to do with the interests of the nation as a whole, were outside of any political or ideological inclinations. Even many of those who wrote in the press organs of these two parties were not of any partisan inclination.

The Latent Biases of Yahoo!

Strangely enough if you are a continuous browser into the Yahoo Live Newsfeed on Yemen, you will be surprised to find that for some inexplicable reason, you will find the Yemen Times erased from any mention. This is an unusual development, we thought deserved explanation from Yahoo! Efforts by this observer and others to get an explanation from Yahoo did not produce any results. There was not even an acknowledgement that Yahoo received our inquiries. We have two possible explanations for this strange behavior by a presumably respectable web server: 1) Locally, there may have been pressure to remove the YT from the newsfeed (the competition is enjoying extensive coverage, even if the articles are of no intrinsic value to any reader); 2) This may be the work of MERLI and AIPAC (American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee), who may not be pleased with the position of some of the writers in the YT about the International Zionist Establishment, not to mention the positions of some writers on the misdeeds of the Bush Administration. We read your mind, although we do Yahoo with Yahoo!



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Yemen Press Review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

Annas weekly, 16 May 2005.

Main headlines

- For the second time after determining losses, the president issues pardon for the Houthis and those following them
- Security forces occupy Sana'a University and lay siege to students
- Pronouncement of judgment against al-Mouayad and Zaid postponed until next June
- A GPC leader: Conspiracy mentality controls the JMP
- Offending of Koran at Guantanamo prison
- Private universities sue the government and accuse Bajammal of libel
- Following his arrest by Criminal Investigations, Abdulrahim Muhsin confirms the charge for being drunk was fabricated
- Employees in Union of People's Forces party confiscate al-Shoura newspaper and headquarters of its leaders
- Teachers of the Higher Institute announce their resentment of un-educational practices

Columnist Usama Ghalib writes the sales tax law is still strongly present among businessmen circles despite relative calmness continued for about one month following massive angry demonstrations that took to the streets of Yemeni governorates. Those demonstrations condemned the law and they resulted in arrests among demonstrators.

An official source had then accused the Yemeni Islah party and parties of the Joint Meeting of standing behind those demonstrations while businessmen disavowed their responsibility for what happened, a stance the causes of which are still ambiguous. However, it seems this relative calmness is one of the sorts that herald a tempest.

As enforcement of the law has neared its date of July, accompanied by unjustifiable silence from all political forces and organisations of civil society and cautious waiting from the public, a group of merchants have, on Tuesday before the last, called for a peaceful sit-in inside the chamber of commerce. A motion was

described as escalating against the law.

A press conference was then held where a large number of big merchants demanded the leadership of the chamber of commerce and other places. Sources close to businessmen and chamber of commerce rule out gradual escalation of the sit-in to reach to comprehensive strike including closure of business shops for around a month, beginning from mid of this month, in case the government insisted on enforcement of the law approved by the government and parliament.

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 15 May 2005.

Main headlines

- President Saleh: Military organisation in al-Haq and People's Forces parties behind the events of Saada, Partisanship is a means not an end and could not effect a split in the national rank
- Presidential decrees approving cooperation agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, appointment of deputies for Amran and Abyan governorates
- Held the parties of the Joint Meeting responsible for them, al-Kibsi: Recent university demonstrations unauthorized and regulations would be applied to all
- Al-Shoura council discusses reality and ambitions of official media, Al-Lawzi: Proposals for acceleration of implementing the president's directives on non-imprisoning journalist because of opinion and lifting physical punishments and changing them into civil
- Al-Jawfi: National Council for education, committees to supervise religious education

Columnist Faisal Jalouf writes saying that Arabs are in need of a real revolution in culture toppling many of inherited concepts and past standards. People would not advance culturally if they spend long age repeating ideas and culture of others and would not advance in culture if they sufficed with being proud of their past.

The problems of Arab culture are not confined to methods of acquiring

knowledge but rather to extend to impact of that acquisition on the intellectual and impact of the acquired knowledge on the total of intellectuals segment. Some suppose that culture allows for the intellectual what is not allowed to others.

This belief is extremely dangerous because knowledge is actually a force, an ethical power. Because it has this description, it necessarily tends towards modesty and denial of claim and bragging.

It is imperative in this regard to talk about value of the Arab culture. Can the acquired culture be just a goal or void of purposes? In answering this it is supposed that the value of culture possessed by this or that of people lies in its reciprocal nature and not rather in the amount of what is repeated of it. The cultured is, I think, the person capable of exchanging with others and interacting with them.

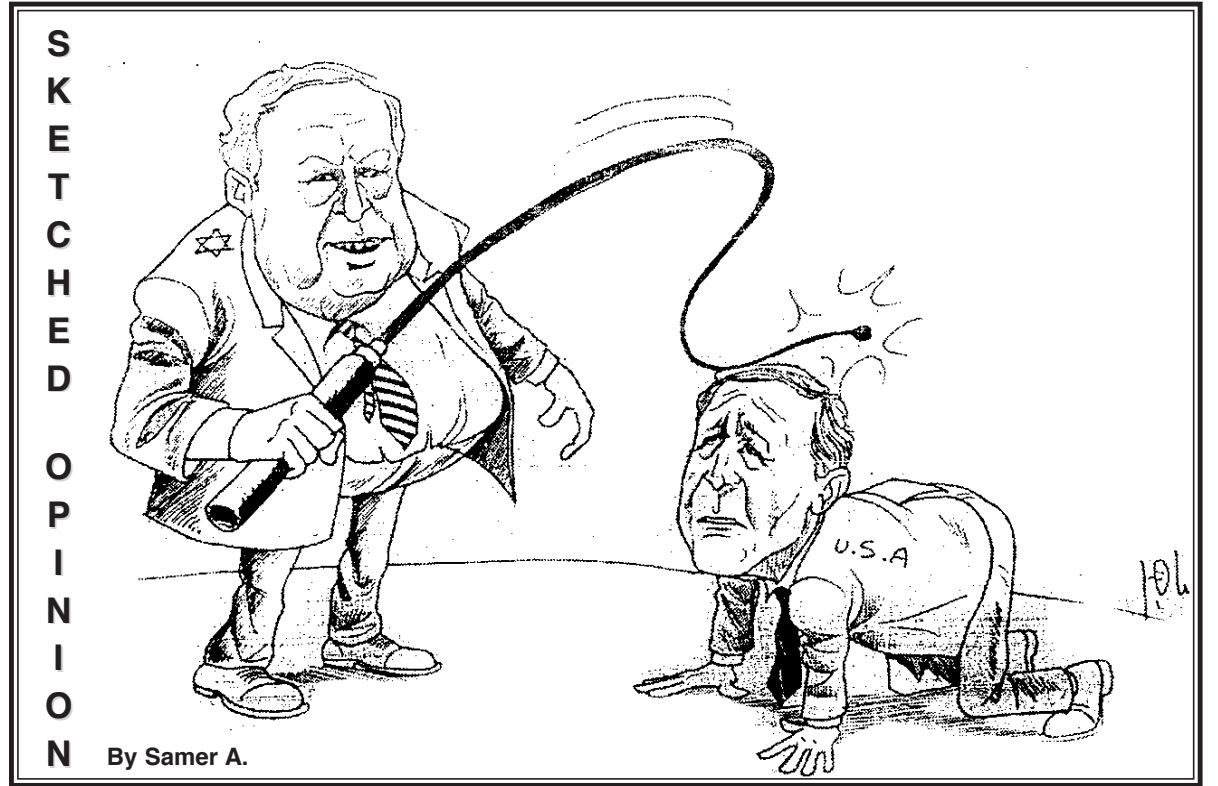
Ash-Shumou weekly, 14 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Army stops Waila mass-up besieging Nashour and demands Al-Nimri to hand over the aggressors quickly
- Large-scale skepticism in al-Houthi credibility of commitment to the constitution and the law
- The American ambassador to Yemen attempts to issue a law for press according to a dangerous agenda
- PM Bajammal demands the establishment of "Woman Party"
- The UNICEF accuses health ministry, polio epidemic expands to threaten the national security of Yemen

The newspaper political editor writes that the homeland needs nothing as its strong and urgent need for implementation of the law. This alone is the measure that would help straighten wrong courses and correct failures and also to restore confidence of the citizen in government.

By this right measure the country recovers and becomes more able to march ahead towards future with confidence and satisfaction. If there is activation of the law and respect of its texts, no one would dare to go far in impinging on sovereignty and assail on the regime with disregard of what



those forces may face in accountability of the law.

Al-Wasat weekly, 11 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Attempts to end Saada events militarily before the unity festivals, Al-Houthi asserts to the president that killing complicates the problem
- Bajammal threatened drugs factories and lashed out at private medicine colleges
- Unity Detachments general organisations planned to hit western interests in Yemen, in the Gulf and foreign countries
- Russian ambassador to Sana'a, no confrontation with America and we deal in Iraq as fait accomplie

Columnist Abdulbari Taher says in his article the press law is not the sole factor threatening press freedom. There are also the laws of punitive measures and that of documents.

Some of those laws condemn with execution of the journalist for opinion disagreement and some journalists were convicted to lashing with more than one punishment for publication violation. The eye-catching thing about the new press law is that it makes the ministry of information the prosecutor and the judge.

It gives the minister the right of closing newspapers without accountability and imposes censorship on press. The new draft law is characterized by totalitarian spirit and non-democratic horizon. It makes the ministry the first and last reference in granting licenses to newspapers, printing presses and

even kiosks that sell newspapers.

Marginalizing civil life and suppression of opposition and nipping freedom is the common characteristic in the Arab system. The perils of what is going on in Yemen are that this ugly practice opens the door to violence and fighting.

As-Sahwa weekly, 12 May 2005.

Main headlines

- In a press conference held by Al-Quds establishment, sheikh al-Ahmar: defending Al-Quds collective responsibility for rulers and people
- Cabinet abolishes medicine faculties at private universities except the University of Science and Technology
- Bajammal loses consciousness 24 hours due to having expired medicine, health minister reveals about government medicine in special pharmacies
- Following a woman sit-in, general prosecutor releases a detained woman accused with husband and sister of affiliation to al-Houthi organisation
- Committee on investigating issues of corruption in oil sector in Aden presents its report to parliament
- Sana'a university president assails University professors, accusing them of academic corruption
- Yemen students appeal to civil society organisations to support them
- Attempt to release a shipment of decayed wheat at Hodeidah port

Columnist Zaid al-Shami writes saying prices of various essential foodstuff are rising daily, added to that prices of construction materials, accessories and even prices of services such as electricity and water as well as taxes. The only thing that does not rise is the individual income. It is becoming less even if it was fixed because of the drop in value of purchasing power of the local currency and increase in volume of inflation.

The crazy rise of prices is unjustifiable and illogical given the tangible variables. The direct cause may be the utter silence shown by all the concerned, including the citizen who tries to adapt himself to the wave of high prices.

The problem is aggravating and there is no ray of hope for solving it, even at the level of discussing it and holding symposiums about it. Who would then be responsible for that? Is it the government and its failing policy, owners of factories and farms or does it lie in the citizens and the way of their consumption.

The government says it is following a market policy according to the capitalist style, leaving the mater to supply and demand. Investors claim that taxes imposed on them threaten them of collapse and therefore many of them began to transfer their investments abroad.

If each side bears part of the responsibility, the government undertakes or rather plays the biggest and most important role. It is not reasonable for the government to sit hands folded and solve its problems via raising prices and claims that the market economy exempts its from responsibility.

China's Internet Dictatorship

By MA JIAN

Eleven years after its initial connection to the World Wide Web (WWW), China's access to the Internet is still guarded by firewalls, embedded in its proxy servers, which have proven to be more practical and impenetrable than the Berlin Wall. Moreover, an increase in the demand for broadband connection has triggered the launch of an \$800 million "Jin Dun (Golden Shield) Project," an automatic digital system of public policing that will help prolong Communist rule by denying China's people the right to information.

The principle underlying the Golden Shield is that "as virtue rises one foot, vice rises ten." Aided by systems developed by western intelligence agencies, China has forged a virtual sword that threatens to block the path to democracy.

Internet "gateways" mainly supervise and filter political information in China. Their technical functions include blocking overseas Web sites, filtering content and key words on Web pages, monitoring email and Internet cafes, hijacking PC's, sending out viruses, and inter-connecting with the monitoring systems of the Public Security Bureaus. Rather than heralding a new era of freedom, the Internet is enabling Chinese authorities to perfect totalitarian control in a way that puts

the rulers in George Orwell's 1984 to shame.

Since April 15 of this year, the Golden Shield's advanced science and technology has been monitoring every thought and action of those Chinese people who use the Internet. But what Orwell failed to predict is that China's government has accomplished this with the help of Western democracies.

Today, China is the only country in the world that has enshrined in law the concept of a "Web political criminal." Publishing articles on the Internet can amount to "committing an offense," and "radical views" may result in imprisonment. The real criminals, the officers of the companies - Nortel, Cisco, and Sun Microsystems - that built this sinister system of mind control, will never get closer to a prison than China's five-star hotels.

Since the first Chinese Web criminal, Lin Haiyin, was imprisoned for instigating subversive actions in 2000 to the recent arrest of writer Shi Tao, more than 100 independent intellectuals have been imprisoned for expressing their views. Internet monitoring is also behind the constant rise in the number of Falun Gong practitioners executed by the state - a total of 1,692 as of April 18.

Internet communication in modern China is filled with baits and traps: user-friendly Web page designs, easy-to-click icons and symbolized facial

expressions, beautiful female stars in online ads and constantly updated international news induce users to participate and express their own ideas. But once someone's fingertips touch the keyboard, the "Kitchen Table Democracy" of the Web no longer exists - he or she may find themselves stepping into a trap, because the Internet Police monitor every word that is typed. In a country where freedom of expression has been off limits for half a century, the Internet had at first proven to be a godsend: people poured their enthusiasm into it by building Web sites and personal homepages. Now these people find themselves exposed to the Public Security Bureaus.

For example, the *Democracy and Freedom Web* site has been either temporarily shut down or blocked 43 times in three years. Its robust reports on the death of Zhao Ziyang, the reform-minded leader of the 1980's who was imprisoned for objecting to the Tiananmen Square crackdown of June 1989, ultimately forced it to succumb to the power of the "Golden Shield." Today, the average online lifespan of proxy servers in China is a mere 30 minutes, and 17,000 Internet cafes have been shut down. The online filtering technology is capable of blocking or intercepting the emails of the 80 million or so "Net citizens" in China.

Because Internet chat rooms and personal emails have become essential to

many Chinese, the upgrading of Internet supervision is also gaining momentum. As a result, thinkers today are far more likely to get caught expressing "unsanctioned" ideas than they ever were in the 1980's and early 1990's, when underground publications served as the main channel of free expression.

Indeed, although the Internet's coverage in China has been expanding steadily, the Communist Party's ability to censor it has grown even faster, thanks to Western technology. The Party has been dreaming of this kind of oversight ever since its revolutionary days. Dictatorship is not only safe in China, but, at least for now, it is on the offensive.

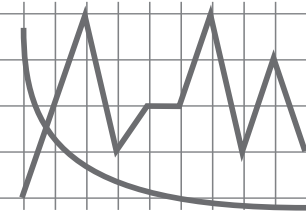
But not forever. Although "the Golden Shield Project" is the Communist Party's largest single investment in the ideological field since it gained control of China in 1949, it is also likely to be the last big bet before the Party's collapse. Like the Berlin Wall, China's Internet restrictions may be technically sound, even as they defend the indefensible and sustain the unsustainable.

Ma Jian is the author of the acclaimed memoir *Red Dust* and of the novel *The Noodlemaker*, among other books. He now lives in exile.

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بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره
نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى
الأستاذ / عبد العزيز علي الزارقة وإخوانه
وجميع آل الزارقة
لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى
الأستاذ / عبد الوهاب علي الزارقة
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه
ويسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان «وإنا لله
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YT Business



Citizens' living problems throughout 15 years of unity

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The people of Yemen almost agree that the unity attained on 22 May 1990 was a great accomplishment for the homeland. It has united human potentials and created numerous opportunities for the travel of people among the country's governorates. But every great event would be faced with challenges and woes.

The ecstasy the unity has created would be complete with sustainable development, founding work opportunities, development of the society with science and knowledge and keeping in line with advancement taking place in every branch of technology sciences and the technology of communication and in other various fields.

What impression the ordinary people bear towards their economy and circumstances of their daily living? Has the unity realized their dreams in equality and creation of job opportunities for the unemployed returning to labour market following the second Gulf war and Iraq invasion of Kuwait? What indications do those of limited incomes perceive regarding their living standards?

So many questions have been put before the ordinary people of the Yemeni society included a mini-bus

driver living on returns of his daily fees received from carrying passengers, a worker seeking a job opportunity, another peddler selling goods in a cart and another citizen working in a tailoring workshop. All of whom are in Sana'a.

The mini-bus driver says the Yemeni unity is a great event but the problem emerged before him is that of reforms brought forth by successive governments for the purpose of improving performance of economy. He says, regretfully those reforms have increased the number of the poor and added new suffering, providing labour market with various kinds of unemployment.

Some of them unemployed old university degrees and others do not possess qualifications but have technical experiences, especially at some institutions and sectors that have been privatized. This problem lies in non-availability of a solution in parallel to it undertaken by the government. That means the unity state does not bear responsibility for the consequences of the economic crisis and the drop in income of needy families. The driver added if I did not have this bus to work, our living would have been almost impossible due to non-existence of job opportunities.

A worker sees that the state of the unity is an accomplishment for the

people of Yemen, however, after its commencement on 22 May 1990, it led to an increase in the number of the rich and some officials have become very wealthy. It is unbelievable how some officials have changed into investors and owners of large real estates, whereas the poor were not able to obtain work opportunities despite the state mentioning about huge developments, economic accomplishments and gains.

The same worker admits that the state has built roads, schools and health centers but asks what are the benefits of infrastructure installations at a time the Yemeni citizens continue to suffer from unemployment and face hard living conditions.

A worker at a market selling used goods, spent a long time in quest of a

job opportunity and mentions that they gain an amount that hardly ensures their daily living. It is a kind of bitter life we are leading while we see the influential develop more richness, possess luxurious cars and big assets in banks. Against this situation, "we at the market selling used goods can't even ensure a living for our children for two days.

A peddler sees that it is supposed that the unity of the people and land has come for the realization of justice among the people and stabilization of new values of equality and removing grievances of citizens because it is a noble goal achieved for all. However, the reality is quite the contrary. The poor are suffering and assistance of the state and grants of the World Bank and donor organizations ensure but

small amount of requirements for the high cost of living.

Fifteen years before, a gallon of cooking oil was 15 riyals but now it costs 450 riyals, a sack of wheat flour was 80 riyals and now it costs 3000 riyals. Currently there are ridiculous prices resulting from the weakening of our purchasing powers. It is a pitiable situation.

A worker working in the tailoring profession believes in the Yemeni unity and thinks it has realized his political dreams, removing from his causes of grief as division has gone for good. He has no doubt that the Yemeni unity has come for the entire homeland.

However, he supports what is mentioned about the Yemeni economy that is staggering under

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	191.7200	192.0100
Sterling Pound	352.9300	353.4600
Euro	241.7100	242.0800
Saudi Rial	51.1200	51.2000
Kuwaiti Dinar	656.4200	657.4100
UAE Dirhem	52.2000	52.2800
Egyptian Pound	33.0400	33.0900
Bahraini Dinar	508.5600	509.3300
Qatari Rial	52.6700	52.7500
Jordanian Dinar	270.6200	271.0300
Omani Rial	498.0100	498.7600
Swiss Franc	156.4900	156.7300
Swedish Crown	26.2500	26.2900
Japanese Yen	1.7800	1.7827

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

burdens of the corrupt that have been influential for a long time, robbing even the gifts and assistance offered by donor countries and sides and also gaining the bigger parts of the state budget. He says the corrupt have nothing but money piling up and are depriving the simple people of their legitimate rights to gain work opportunities and ensure living for their children.

That is the vision the Yemeni people see about the Yemeni unity, which has been associated with democratic pursuit, recognition of the principle of political pluralism and respect of public and individual freedom and human rights.

Program on development of small industries, plan for industrial production

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The first meeting, recently held at the ministry of industry and trade, has approved actuation of the program of developing the private sector adopted by a committee formed for this purpose. The program aims at creating job opportunities. The meeting was held under chairmanship of the minister Dr Khalid Rajih sheikh and attended by representatives from concerned parties. The meeting approved procedures for the development of private sector performance and engaging it in development.

Also taking part in the meeting were the German side represented by the German establishment, DAD, the German Development and Reconstruction Bank.

In the meeting the minister affirmed the importance of the program in a vital and significant field represented by encouragement of the private sector in founding work opportunities and furtherance of professional and service skills of the small enterprises in Yemen.

The meeting has also reviewed activities implemented in the year 2004 in the governorates included in the program plan, namely the governorates of Aden and Taiz. It has also reviewed the working plan for the year 2005 and problems and impediments facing small enterprises sector as well as the role of the program and concerned parties in overcoming those hindrances and for advancement of that sector.

The meeting has come out with a number of recommendations that are expected to contribute to develop performance of the program and enable it to achieve its development goals in cooperation with all concerned partners.

Moreover, the minister of industry and trade said his ministry had completed a mechanism for expansion in the area of assembly industries in Yemen and promising industries in all fields. He added that his ministry had traversed long distances in the area of activating the role of the industry and trade sectors through efforts produced many tangible accomplishments.

Emphasis on activating the sectors of industry and trade is due to their being the sectors that guarantee job opportunities and activate the economic development, provide commodities and services as well as realization of internal and external economic balance for Yemen. The ministry of industry and trade has adopted the launch of a large-scale project to increase productive capacity of cement through public and private investments exceeding 700 million dollars in order to double Yemen's production of this material by four times and to attain 6 million tons by the year 2007. This is in cooperation with relevant sides.

Three factories for iron and steel were also built in industrial zones with an investment cost estimated at \$100 million and production capacity of 800 thousand tons per year. Mr Rajih made it clear that the production capacity would cover demand of the Yemeni market that imports around \$170 million worth of steel every year.

The minister also says the ministry would implement a program for solving problems of textile industries and an increase in productive and operative capacities by more than two times in agriculture of cotton as well as modernization of the existing units of textile. The ministry is also working in cooperation with the ministry of planning for the promotion of investment opportunities in Yemen in fields of minerals and construction raw materials.

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Who is it? A story to be told — (4/4)

By SALWA YEHIA AL-ERYANI

I will take care of myself. I can't understand this negligence and underestimation. The next morning I hired men to come and put barbed, thorny wires around my fence. I was watching the men work with great pleasure and gratitude. I'll see tonight how this thief, who thinks he is extraordinary, will enter my garden.

The Third Night.

That night I felt safe. Safety feels fantastic when you feel it after suffering dangers or risks. I was so tranquil I heard from my neighbor, the leader's house, music and loud voices and laughter mixed with giggles. Another dinner of his! I looked from the bedroom window and saw people entering the house.

Some were definitely men. Some were definitely women but dressed up as men too. The final result was that only men were entering the leader's house. The next morning I hired men to come and put barbed, thorny wires around my fence. I was watching the men work with great pleasure and gratitude. I'll see tonight how this thief, who thinks he is extraordinary, will enter my garden. This leader has no worries except making parties.

This is another soiree of his! That careless man who is neither responsible nor aware of his duty. He is not concerned about our safety and doesn't even know whether we exist or not. I hate him! Now that I feel safe and sound I am going to prepare myself a nice dinner and eat it in front of the TV. It will be my humble celebration. Suddenly a noise of a

door opened widely and violently and slammed on the wall was heard. I jumped from my seat. I stacked my back to the wall. I was so scared I began seeing the watch on the wall as two.

The vase with one yellow flower in it, I saw as a bunch of flowers. I was not fine. I felt my courage running away from me in all directions like a deer escaping from a wild hungry lion. I tried to roughen my voice and yelled "Who is it?" My voice sounded so peculiar I assumed the thief would peep and ask me what I was saying? Yet, it seemed to scare him because I heard his footsteps run away like the previous times. I bet he thought someone was strangling me and didn't want to interfere in a murder so he chose to run away. Well it was good enough.

What is this that is happening to me? Why didn't the barbed wires rip him to pieces? Is this thief I am dealing with some kind of magician, ghost or an evil spirit. I honestly don't know. I gave up. That night all I remembered was sliding down and falling asleep exactly where I was on the floor. The next morning I woke up, changed my clothes and went to meet this stupid leader. The thief has reached a high percentage of causing me trouble and a telephone call to the leader will no longer do any good.

I want to see him and this time really emphasized that my life is turning out to be a punishment. I don't enjoy anything anymore nor do I have fun in my house. I don't even sleep safely. I arrived at the leader's house. His guards were there and all were drunk. Those who were conscious and walking were making two steps forward and one backwards.

I was astonished. Drunk? The guards' drunk? Has shame disappeared from these people's manners? Drunk? In the morning? I rang the bell and asked to see the leader. Who is honestly not leading us to anything except being lost.

I was allowed to enter and waited inside. Waiting was like a punishment for coming. He came in after about an hour and with out any welcoming words he sat down and said, "I have looked for the sheriff of Policemen but couldn't find him. I shall order a man to look for him and when he finds him he'll tell him to be always fully prepared for any phone calls." He smiled.

A smile means a lot. He looked funny. He imagined himself a peacock spreading its colored feathers. Imagining that they are feathers of wealth and authority. As to me I saw him nothing but a cockroach thrown on it's back. The smile supplied me with patience. I said "Sir, the thief entered my house yesterday regardless of the barbed wire.

Wires. I have no expectations how he did that. It seems I am suffering an unusual, supernatural thief. Until now things are tolerable. Yet I won't hide my fears. Really, I feel that next time he will come in and stand in front of me face to face. The imagination makes me shreak. Sir, I repeat I am alone. I have no one to save me or protect my belongings if he enters. I demand that you put a guard at my door to make me feel safe.

You might say who does she think she is? Yet sir, I repeat please, please." I heard my voice pleading and felt sorry for my self and started weeping. The leader answered, "all

right." I raised my face, asked, "All right what?" I imagined he meant that he would put a guard at my door. He replied, "Barbered wires was a good idea." I said, "No, it did no good, sir." He thought for a while then whispered, "I will tell you from where I got my barbered wires.

Go and buy wires like them. Yours are probably very cheap!" I interrupted him "Why do you have barbered wires? You have guards and some times an army protecting you so why do you need wires? And by the way my wires are not only cheap but they are free I found them in a street thrown on the floor because the nearby house has built an extremely high wall and doesn't need them anymore." He asked with shown pride "What do you mean what for? I have precious belongings and furniture I have to protect. Look at that ivory.

It belonged to the largest elephant in all Africa. It is precious." I sighed.... Then I said "Ok sir, now what about me?" He replied quickly "I will discuss your problem with the sheriff. I promise I will." I felt I lost all hope. I mumbled, "Really?", and went out. Despair is also a quite comfortable situation. I didn't bother to wait for the answer. The entire idea of asking for safety, freedom, justice or even living peacefully is just useless. I felt my tears surrounding my neck like hands trying to strangle me. I didn't need any choking to let my tears run. So, I just cried loudly. It was insulting. This drama that I found myself forced in is a horror one.

I don't want to stand on stage nor do I want to act. I want to quit. I want to live safely and sleep peacefully. I really do. That night I decided to write. I concentrated in writing so

much that I felt myself rowing in a boat and losing all fears. I wrote about my self and what I felt. I compared myself and my life to an ant and an ant's life. It carries its crumbs of food daily on its back to its hole.

It had no other right except that. It hasn't got the right to fear that some enemy would pile sand on its hole and block it. It has no right to worry that some foot would stamp on it and crack it. It has no rights. Yet they are few and don't relate to its life. If it died one day, and it obviously will, then its death will not make any problem as all creatures die, even after starving or after a slaughter.

Yet, hope keeps breathing in this ant's chest. I'll keep fighting and I won't hesitate. My writing was interrupted by a sound of footsteps coming up my stairs inside the house. I was paralyzed. All of a sudden and before arranging my reaction, the thief entered and stood in front of me. It was a lady. I screamed loudly. Not only was it a lady but it was me! It was like seeing my face in the mirror. It was terrifying. 'I said to me "listen, don't you wait for others to offer you your rights. You go and fight for them and get them yourself.

Don't wait for others to supply you with what you need. You go and provide it. Don't wait for others to appreciate what you have done just enjoy it." I was so scared I covered my face and shouted, "Go away. Go away." Then I said, "Don't worry I am leaving. I just came to tell you these few sentences. You only live one life so live it correctly." Then I didn't hear anything any more. I opened my eyes and looked around. 'I had gone away.

Continuation from back page

As peace spreads, surge in demand strains UN resources

Already, 15 UN-led peacekeeping missions on three continents have some 50,000 soldiers and police personnel wearing United Nations blue helmets, mainly from developing countries, such as Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. The numbers could rise to 70,000 or more by the end of this year. In the scheme of military activity, this is not much. Even if the bill for UN peacekeeping rises to \$4 billion a year, which is possible if the UN Security Council calls for new missions in all of the places currently under discussion, UN peacekeeping will still cost less than 1% of what the United States alone spends each year on defence. But in the UN context, the current surge will push the system to the outer limits of its capacity, creating major challenges in the areas of planning, force generation, logistics, procurement and command and control.

If the international community wants peacekeeping to be done, the support must be there to do it well — the men and women in uniform from developed and developing countries alike; the specialized military support services from those countries that have them, the financial resources, the strategic force reserves, the sustained commitment. There is a peace dividend to be had, but not without a clear-headed investment.

For further information:
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Tel: (1 212) 963-6316;
E-mail: wilmhurst@un.org

Country Reports on Terrorism ... Continued

RELEASED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM
APRIL 27, 2005

FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS (FTOS)

Current List of Designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations

1. Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)
2. Abu Sayyaf Group
3. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade
4. Ansar al-Islam
5. Armed Islamic Group (GIA)
6. Asbat al-Ansar
7. Aum Shinrikyo
8. Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)
9. Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA)
10. Continuity Irish Republican Army
11. Gama'a al-Islamiyya (Islamic Group)
12. HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement)
13. Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)
14. Hizballah (Party of God)
15. Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
16. Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) (Army of Mohammed)
17. Jemaah Islamiya organization (JI)
18. al-Jihad (Egyptian Islamic Jihad)
19. Kahane Chai (Kach)
20. Kongra-Gel (KGK, formerly

- Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, KADEK)
21. Lashkar-e Tayyiba (LT) (Army of the Righteous)
22. Lashkar i Jhangvi
23. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
24. Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG)
25. Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MEK)
26. National Liberation Army (ELN)
27. Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)
28. Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)
29. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
30. PFLP-General Command (PFLP-GC)
31. al-Qa'ida
32. Real IRA
33. Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
34. Revolutionary Nuclei (formerly ELA)
35. Revolutionary Organization 17 November
36. Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C)
37. Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC)
38. Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso, SL)
39. Tanzim Qa'idat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn (QJBR) (al-Qaida in Iraq) (formerly Jama'at al-Tawhid wa'al-Jihad, JJJ, al-Zarqawi Network)
40. United Self-Defense Forces of

Colombia (AUC)
* Section 212(a)(3)(B) of the INA defines "terrorist activity" to mean: "any activity which is unlawful under the laws of the place where it is committed (or which, if committed in the United States, would be unlawful under the laws of the United States or any State) and which involves any of the following:
(I) The highjacking or sabotage of any conveyance (including an aircraft, vessel, or vehicle).
(II) The seizing or detaining, and threatening to kill, injure, or continue to detain, another individual in order to compel a third person (including a governmental organization) to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of the individual seized or detained.
(III) A violent attack upon an internationally protected person (as defined in section 1116(b)(4) of title 18, United States Code) or upon the liberty of such a person.
(IV) An assassination.
(V) The use of any—
(a) biological agent, chemical agent, or nuclear weapon or device, or
(b) explosive, firearm, or other weapon or dangerous device (other than for mere personal monetary gain), with intent to endanger, directly or indirectly, the safety of one or more individuals or to cause substantial damage to property.
(VI) A threat, attempt, or conspira-

cy to do any of the foregoing."
Other pertinent portions of section 212(a)(3)(B) are set forth below:
(iv) Engage in Terrorist Activity Defined
As used in this chapter [chapter 8 of the INA], the term 'engage in terrorist activity' means in an individual capacity or as a member of an organization—
1. to commit or to incite to commit, under circumstances indicating an intention to cause death or serious bodily injury, a terrorist activity;
2. to prepare or plan a terrorist activity;
3. to gather information on potential targets for terrorist activity;
4. to solicit funds or other things of value for—
(aa) a terrorist activity;
(bb) a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(I) or (vi)(II); or
(cc) a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III), unless the solicitor can demonstrate that he did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the solicitation would further the organization's terrorist activity;
II. to solicit any individual—
(aa) to engage in conduct otherwise described in this clause;
(bb) for membership in terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(I) or (vi)(II); or
(cc) for membership in a terrorist organization described in clause

(vi)(III), unless the solicitor can demonstrate that he did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the solicitation would further the organization's terrorist activity; or
III. to commit an act that the actor knows, or reasonably should know, affords material support, including a safe house, transportation, communications, funds, transfer of funds or other material financial benefit, false documentation or identification, weapons (including chemical, biological, or radiological weapons), explosives, or training—
(aa) for the commission of a terrorist activity;
(bb) to any individual who the actor knows, or reasonably should know, has committed or plans to commit a terrorist activity;
(cc) to a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(I) or (vi)(II); or
(dd) to a terrorist organization described in clause (vi)(III), unless the actor can demonstrate that he did not know, and should not reasonably have known, that the act would further the organization's terrorist activity.
This clause shall not apply to any material support the alien afforded to an organization or individual that has committed terrorist activity, if the Secretary of State, after consultation with the Attorney General, or the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of State, concludes in his sole unreviewable discretion,

that that this clause should not apply."
"(v) Representative Defined
As used in this paragraph, the term 'representative' includes an officer, official, or spokesman of an organization, and any person who directs, counsels, commands, or induces an organization or its members to engage in terrorist activity.
i. Terrorist Organization Defined
As used in clause (i)(VI) and clause (iv), the term 'terrorist organization' means an organization—
I. designated under section 219 [8 U.S.C. § 1189];
II. otherwise designated, upon publication in the Federal Register, by the Secretary of State in consultation with or upon the request of the Attorney General, as a terrorist organization, after finding that the organization engages in the activities described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of clause (iv), or that the organization provides material support to further terrorist activity; or
III. that is a group of two or more individuals, whether organized or not, which engages in the activities described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of clause (iv).
** Section 140(d)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 defines "terrorism" as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents."

إعلان مناقصة دولية رقم (٢٠٠٥/١) لإصدار

رخصة جديدة لمشغل ثالث لخدمات الهاتف الخليوي نظام GSM900 في الجمهورية اليمنية

تعلن وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات في الجمهورية اليمنية بأنه بناء على قرار مجلس الوزراء بالموافقة على إصدار رخصة جديدة لمشغل ثالث لخدمات الهاتف الخليوي نظام GSM900 .
فإن الوزارة تدعو الشركات العالمية الراغبة والمتخصصة في هذا المجال الدخول في المناقصة للحصول على ترخيص لتشغيل شبكة هاتف خليوي نظام GSM900 في الجمهورية اليمنية والذين تنطبق عليهم الشروط الواردة في هذا الإعلان
التقدم إلى وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات - مكتب لجنة سكرتارية بيع وثائق المناقصة بالوزارة- صنعاء - طريق المطار - الدور الرابع هاتف رقم (٣٣١٤٥٢) فاكس رقم (٣٣١٤٧٣) للحصول على وثائق المناقصة مقابل رسم وقدرة خمسة
ألف دولار أمريكي (\$٥٠٠٠) (لاترد) خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي من الساعة الثامنة صباحاً حتى الساعة الثالثة عصراً ابتداءً من يوم ٢٠٠٥/٥/١٧م.

ويشترط الأتي :

- ١- أن يكون المتقدم (تحالف - مجموعة) لديها خبرة لا تقل عن ٣ سنوات في مجال خدمات الهاتف الخليوي نظام ال GSM .
- ٢- أن تتقدم الشركة بطلب رسمي موقع ومختوم برغبتها في شراء وثيقة مناقصة ال (GSM900) مع توضيح الأتي :-
- اسم الشخص المفوض باستلام الوثيقة .
- اسم الشركة
- مقرها (العنوان كاملاً)
- رقم الهاتف و الفاكس
- البريد الالكتروني (الإيميل)
- موقع الشركة على شبكة الانترنت إن وجدت
- ٣- لا يحق للمشغلين الحاليين العاملين في الاتصالات بالجمهورية اليمنية سواء شركات الهاتف الخليوي (GSM) أو المؤسسة العامة للاتصالات ، يمن موبايل ، تيليمن أو المساهمين معهم التقدم لهذه المناقصة أو تملك أسهم في شركة المشغل الثالث لنظام الهاتف GSM900 .
- ٤- تقديم العروض في ظروف مغلقة ومختومة بالشمع الأحمر بالشكل والطريقة المحددة في وثائق المناقصة (من أصل وأربع نسخ طبق الأصل).
- ٥- إرفاق ضمان بنكي غير مشروط أو شيك مقبول الدفع (الضمان الابتدائي) بمبلغ مقطوع وقدرة (\$٥٠٠,٥٠٠) خمسمائة ألف دولار أمريكي صالح لمدة (١٥٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف وصادر من بنك داخل الجمهورية اليمنية مصرح له من قبل البنك المركزي اليمني.
- ٦- يجب أن تكون العطاءات صالحة لمدة (١٢٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.
- ٧- يجب دراسة وثائق المناقصة بدقة لمعرفة كل الشروط المطلوبة ويتم إعادة الوثيقة مع العطاء بعد دراستها والختم على كل صفحة من قبل مقدم العطاء.
- ٨- تسلم وثائق العطاءات إلى العنوان التالي :
• وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات الدور الرابع - مكتب مدير عام التخطيط والعلاقات الدولية (لجنة سكرتارية إستلام العطاءات) .
• طريق المطار - الجراف
• صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية

آخر موعد لاستلام العطاءات من قبل المتقدمين الساعة العاشرة صباحاً من يوم (الثلاثاء) الموافق ٢٠٠٥/٨/٢ وسيتم فتح المظاريف علناً بحضور مقدمي العطاءات أو ممثليهم في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر ظهراً من نفس اليوم في ديوان عام الوزارة.

Announcement of International Tender no.: 01/2005 For the issuance of a new licence for a third GSM900 Network Operator in the Republic of Yemen.

The Ministry of Telecommunications & Information Technology in the Republic of Yemen would like to announce that pursuant to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers in which they approved the issuance of a new licence for a third GSM900 Network Operator in Yemen, the Ministry would like to invite interested international companies to participate in this Tender to obtain licence for the operation of a GSM900 Network in the Republic of Yemen.

Eligible companies that comply with the entry conditions mentioned in this advertisement to participate in this Tender should approach the Ministry of Telecommunications & Information Technology, Airport Road, Sana'a, YEMEN, during normal working hours (from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) beginning from the 17th of May 2005 to purchase the Tender documents from the Office of the Secretariat Committee .(Tel. no.: 331452, Fax no.: 331473) located on the fourth floor of the Ministry, for a non-refundable fee of USD \$5000 (five thousand United States Dollars).

Tender entry conditions are as follows:

- 1.) The bidding Tenderer Company must be part of a joint-venture company or partnership group holding shares in a company specialized in the field of GSM Cellular Telecommunications that has previous experience as an Operator of not less than three years.
- 2.) The Company must officially apply in writing to purchase the Tender documents. The application letter must be signed and stamped, and has to clarify the following:-
- The name of the person authorized to receive the Tender documents.
- Name of the Company.
- Location (full address).
- Telephone number & Fax number.
- E-mail address.
- Website (if any).
- 3.) All Telecommunication Operators including their shareholder affiliates currently operating in the Republic of Yemen shall not be entitled to participate in this Tender; these include GSM Operators and the Public Telecommunication Corporation, Yemen Mobile and Teleyemen. This also means that any shareholder affiliate having shares in the above said companies while having shares in the Third Operator Company bidding for this Tender shall automatically disqualify that Third Operator Bidding Company from being eligible to obtain licence to operate a GSM900 Network in the Republic of Yemen.
- 4.) All Tender offers must be placed inside an envelope sealed by red wax in such a way as described in the Tender documents; (to be submitted in one original with four copies of the original document).
- 5.) An unconditional Bid Bond Bank Guarantee or payable Cheque amounting to \$500,000 (five hundred thousand United States Dollars) must be submitted along with the offer, to be issued from a local bank in Yemen legally licensed and recognized by the Central Bank of Yemen. The said Bank Guarantee or Cheque must be valid for a period of [150] days from the Tender opening date of enveloped offers.
- 6.) All offers must be valid for [120] days from the date of the Tender opening date.
- 7.) The Tender documents must be studied very carefully in order to know exactly what are the requirements and conditions that must be met. Once the Tender documents have been carefully studied, the Tenderer Bidding Company must return them by including them in its submitted offer after stamping each page with its official company stamp.
- 8.) All offers must be addressed to the following:
Ministry of Telecommunications & Information Technology,
Fourth Floor, Office of the General Manager for Planning & International Public Relations, (Secretariat Committee for receipt of Tenders).
Al-Jiraff, Airport Road,
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

The deadline for submission of offers by Bidding Tenderers is at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday the 2nd of August 2005.

Enveloped offers will be opened on the same day at 11:00 a.m. in the Main Hall of the Ministry in the presence of Tenderers or their representatives who may wish to attend.

Sabafon presents a new service every week on the occasion of Yemen's Re-unification day



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Sonics and Spurs play critical game five tonight

The Seattle SuperSonics try to win their third straight game and at the same time take a 3-2 advantage in their Western Conference semifinals series, as they visit the San Antonio Spurs tonight at the SBC Center for Game 5 of the set.

Game 6 of this series is scheduled for Thursday at KeyArena.

On Sunday, Ray Allen poured in 32 points, and the SuperSonics evened their semifinal series against San Antonio at two games apiece with a 101-89 victory over the Spurs at KeyArena. Luke Ridnour scored 15 of his 20 points in the third quarter and Antonio Daniels added 19 points for the Sonics, who led wire-to-wire for their second straight win in the set.

Tim Duncan had 35 points and 10 rebounds in Sunday's loss to lead San Antonio. Manu Ginobili added 15 points off the bench, and Tony Parker scored 12 on just 5-of-13 shooting in Game 4 for the Spurs, who won Games 1 and 2 at the SBC Center.

The Sonics played Game 4 without All-Star forward Rashard Lewis, who has a sprained toe. Lewis is questionable for tonight's contest.

San Antonio has won eight of its last 10 Game 5s in the postseason, and is 9-2 in its last 11 home contests in the



Seattle SuperSonics guard Luke Ridnour (8) celebrates the Sonics' victory in Game 4 of the NBA Western Conference semifinals against the San Antonio Spurs in Seattle, Washington on May 15, 2005. The Supersonics beat the Spurs 101-89 to tie the best of seven series at two games apiece. Game five tips-off tonight in San Antonio. Reuters

playoffs. The Spurs are 4-1 at the SBC Center in the 2005 playoffs.

This year's semifinal round has a similar tone to last year's for the Spurs, who have lost in this round in two of the last three seasons as they were eliminated by the Lakers both times (2002 and 2004). In the 2004 playoffs, the Spurs, who defeated New Jersey in six games in the 2003 NBA Finals, were ousted by the Lakers in six games. San Antonio won Games 1 and 2 against the Lakers at home, but lost the next four and were eliminated.

The Sonics, who are 1-3 as the visitor in this year's postseason, have lost three of their last four Game 5s in the playoffs. Seattle, which is playing in the postseason after a two-year absence, is 2-10 in its last 12 road games in the playoffs.

Seattle has never won a playoff series after losing the first two contests of the

set. This is the third time that the clubs have met in the postseason. The Sonics lost to the Spurs in five games, 3-2, in the first round of the 2002 playoffs. The teams also met in the 1982 conference semifinals, as San Antonio eliminated Seattle, 4-1, in that series.

Both clubs needed five games in the first round to advance to the conference semifinals. San Antonio eliminated the seventh-seeded Denver Nuggets, while Seattle sent the sixth-seeded Sacramento Kings packing from the postseason.

In their last two appearances in the semis, the Sonics lost to the Lakers, 4-1, in the 1998 conference semifinals, and it also fell in seven games to Houston in the 1997 semis. The last time the SuperSonics were victorious in this round was in 1996 when it swept the Rockets. The Sonics defeated Utah in seven games in the conference finals and went on to play Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls in the NBA Finals. The Bulls beat Seattle in six games in the championship round.

During the regular season, the Sonics and Spurs split four contests. Both teams picked up a win at home and on the road.

Benson dominates as Mets rout Reds

TORONTO (Reuters) - Kris Benson pitched 7 2/3 strong innings and Cliff Floyd homered as the New York Mets routed the Cincinnati Reds 9-2 in National League play on Monday.

Benson (1-1) allowed just four hits in picking up his first win of the campaign on his third start, after starting the season on the disabled list with a strained chest muscle.

He struck out eight and allowed two hits after the second inning, retiring 10 batters in a row at one point and throwing 112 pitches.

The Mets backed him up with plenty of offense, including six extra-base hits, as New York scored twice in the first and second innings to stake Benson to an early 4-1 lead.

Dae-Sung Koo relieved Benson in the eighth and got the last four outs for New York.

Kazuo Matsui and Doug Mientkiewicz both drove in a pair of runs for the Mets.

Paul Wilson (1-5) pitched 5 1/3 innings, allowing six earned runs on eight hits, walking two and striking out two.

Felipe Lopez and Jason LaRue drove in the runs for the Reds.

In other games, Tony Armas



New York Mets' pitcher Kris Benson throws a pitch against the Cincinnati Reds in the third inning of their game at New York's Shea Stadium, May 16. Reuters

his first save and Vinny Castilla homered and had three hits.

Doug Davis (4-5) pitched six innings, allowing four earned runs on nine hits, walking two and striking out four for the loss. Carlos Lee homered for the Brewers.

In San Diego, Dave Roberts drove in a pair of runs as the Padres beat the Atlanta Braves 5-3 for their fifth straight win.

Mark Sweeney's sacrifice fly keyed a three-run eighth inning rally for San Diego.

Scott Linebrink (1-1) pitched a scoreless inning of relief for the win and Trevor Hoffman worked the ninth for his 12th save.

Chris Reitsma (1-2) allowed three runs on four hits in 2/3 innings for the loss. Adam LaRoche had three hits for Atlanta.

In Los Angeles, Brian Moehler pitched 6 2/3 strong innings as the Florida Marlins beat the Dodgers 6-2.

Moehler (2-1) allowed two runs on nine hits.

Miguel Cabrera and Juan Encarnacion homered for Florida.

pitched seven strong innings as the Nationals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 5-2 in Washington.

Armas (1-1) allowed two runs on five hits, walked two and struck out three.

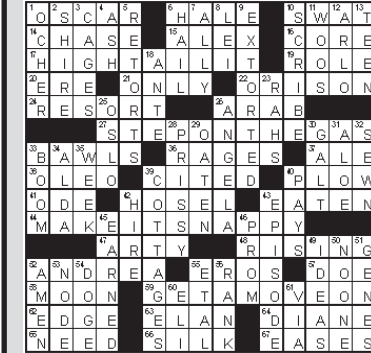
Luis Ayala pitched one inning for

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

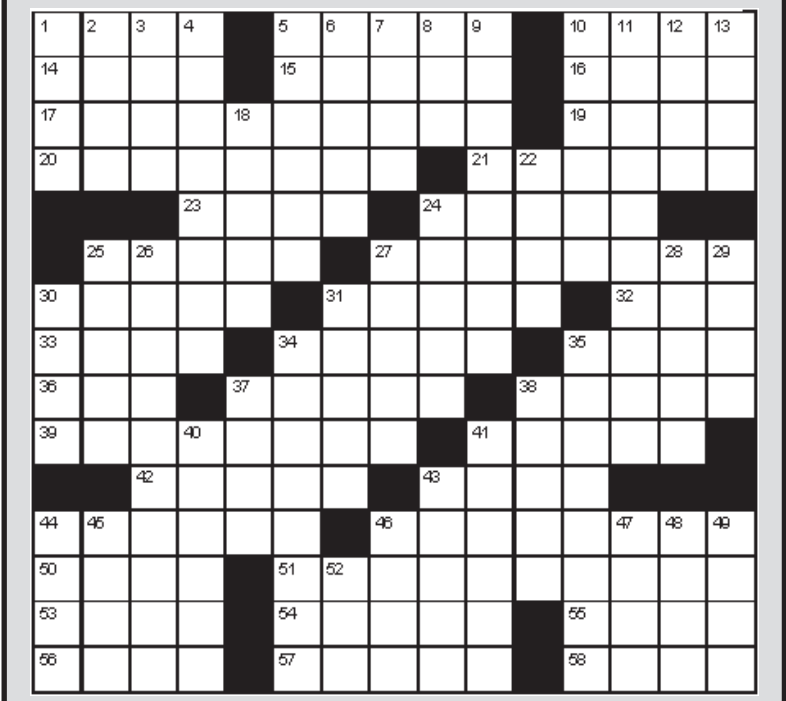
- ACROSS**
- 1 Cairo league
 - 5 Letter on a frat house, perhaps
 - 10 Kind of bag
 - 14 Oak support
 - 15 Punic Wars soldier
 - 16 Dude ranch prop
 - 17 Rendors suspect
 - 19 Protected, nautically
 - 20 Tom and Dick, but no Harry
 - 21 Fruity-smelling chemical compounds
 - 23 Literary governess Jane
 - 24 Homesteader's
 - 25 Jane Smiley's "A Thousand _____"
 - 27 Comes into one's own
 - 30 Which cheek to turn?
 - 31 Percussion instruments
 - 32 Balmoral Castle's river
 - 33 Occasion at Minsky's
 - 34 Cleaners' concern
 - 35 Small price to pay
 - 36 Plumber's connection
 - 37 The Hatfields
 - and the McCoys, e.g.
 - 38 Teen hang-outs
 - 39 Having a finger in every pie
 - 41 Stockholder of Roy Rogers?
 - 42 Appears
 - 43 Columnist Barrett
 - 44 Common airline carry-on
 - 46 Certain relative
 - 50 Perry's creator
 - 51 Way out West, once
 - 53 Glum drop?
 - 54 More than merely ready
 - 55 Jasmine or morning glory, e.g.
 - 56 Verbalizes
 - 57 Isn't supporting
 - 58 Resurgently

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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"ACT YOUR AGE" by Ron Halverson



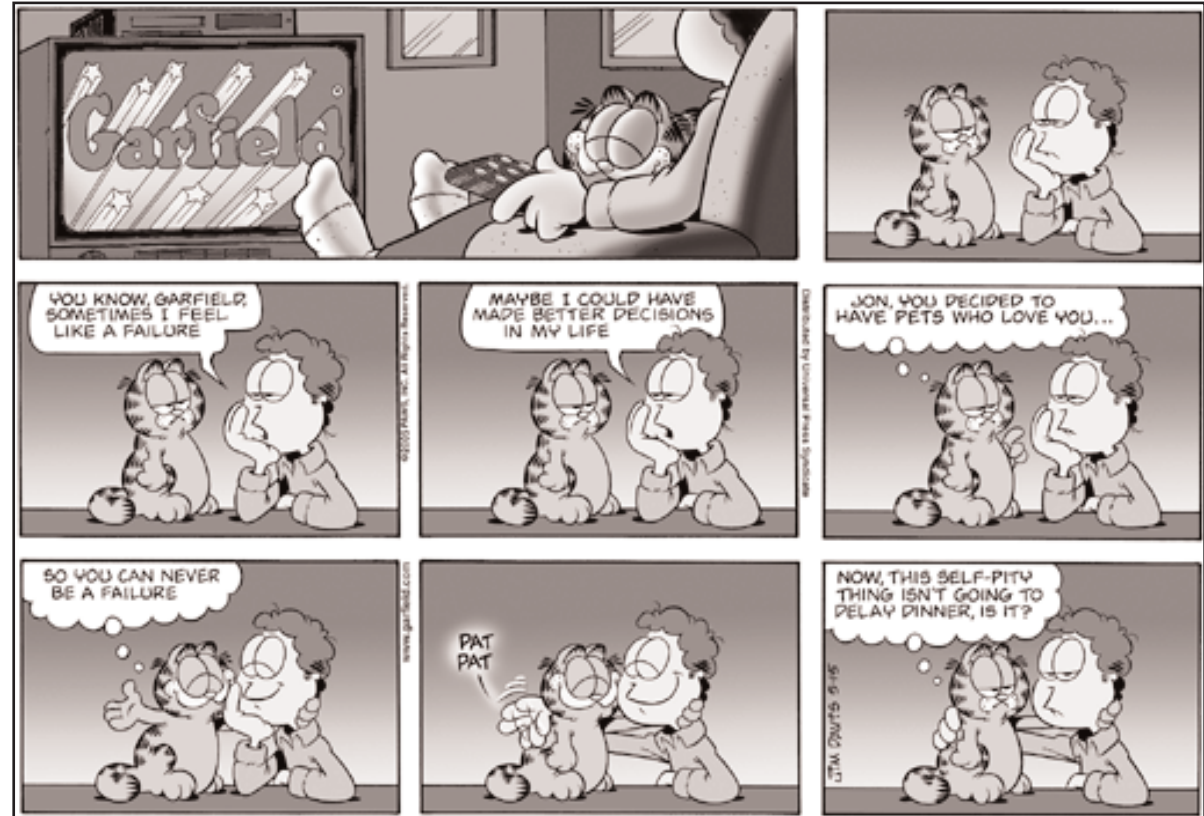
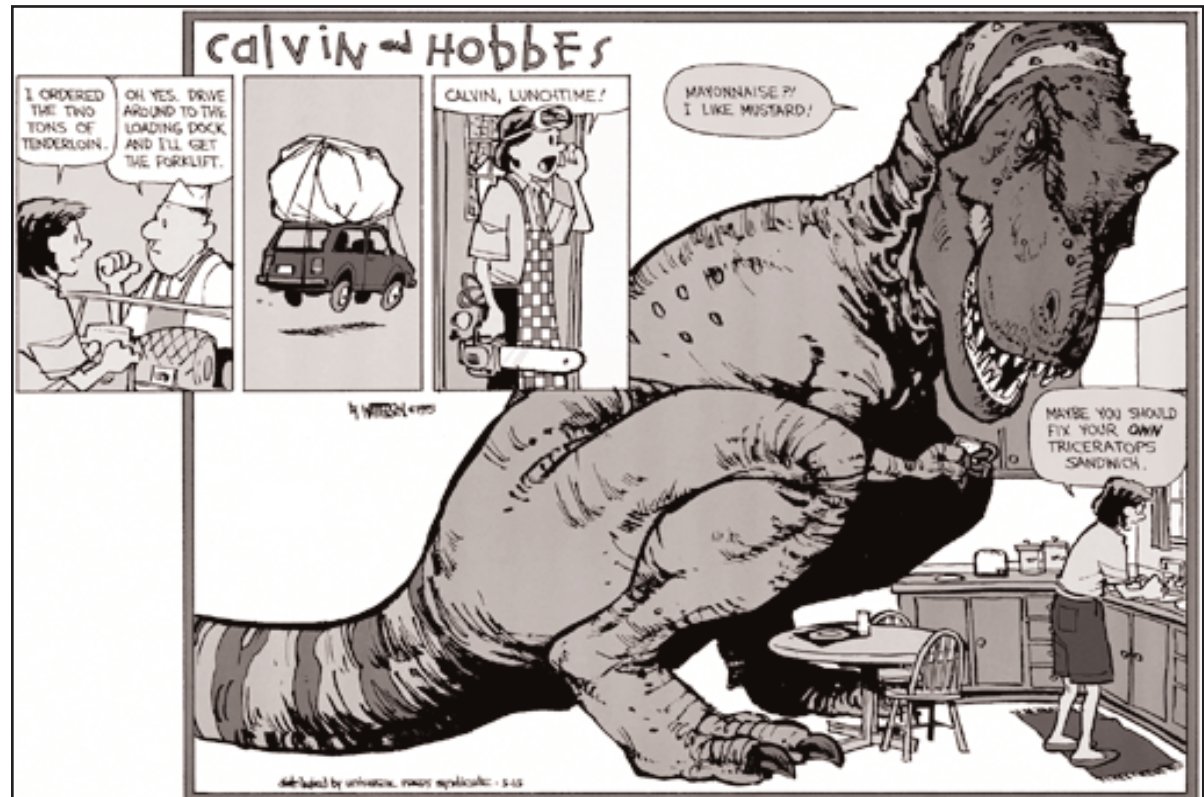
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 3.score 4.wrong
 5.examine 6.apple
 7.insect

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The peacekeeping paradox: As peace spreads, surge in demand strains UN resources

"Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"
In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way...

In an often overlooked phenomenon, the resources needed to help keep the peace are being strained by so much peace to keep.

Recent headlines may seem to contradict it, but today fewer people are being killed by war than at almost any time in the past century. Some 25,000 were killed in armed conflict in 2002, barely one tenth the number killed each year during the 1990s. Even 9/11, and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, have not reversed the decline in recent years.

seven million people have died - are over, or soon may be. Sierra Leone, recently home to rebels known for their horrific brutalities, is stable. Neighbouring Liberia seems to be moving in the same direction. Nor is the trend limited to Africa. Europe and East Asia, which lost some 60 million people in the wars of the last century, are almost entirely at peace. Even the smouldering Balkans, after the recent violence in Kosovo, is more stable now than since the breakup of the former Yugoslavia in



There are two basic reasons for this decline in war deaths: fewer wars are starting and, many old wars are ending. Paradoxically, these positive developments are imposing a strain on resources, with new demands being made on UN peacekeeping that are in danger of not being met amid the mounting challenge of so much peace to keep.

This is particularly true in Africa. Wars in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan - in which some

1991. It is wise to remember that the positive trend could be reversed at any moment. Only one thing is certain: a large number of conflicts is moving towards resolution, and millions of lives are being saved. To ensure that some of these conflicts really do end and peace proves sustainable, new peacekeeping missions are getting up to speed in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, with yet another one to be deployed in Haiti.

To be continued on page 11.

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2005/03

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